THE

Useful Family-Herbal;

OR,

AN ACCOUNT

OF ALL

Those English Plants which are remarkable for their Virtues, and of the Drugs which are produced by Vegetables of other Countries; with their Descriptions and their Uses, as proved by Experience.

Illustrated with

FIGURES of the MOST USEFUL ENGLISH PLANTS.

WITH AN

INTRODUCTION;

CONTAINING,

I. Directions for the gathering and preserving *Roots*, *Herbs*, *Flowers*, and *Seeds*.

II. The various Methods of preparing these *Simples* for present Use.

III. Receipts for making from them distilled *Waters*, *Conserves*, *Syrups*, and other Forms proper to be in Readiness, and for keeping all the Year.

IV. The Ways of making up *Electuaries*, *Julips*, *Draughts*, and the other common Forms of Remedies; together with Cautions in the giving them.

AND AN

APPENDIX;

Containing a Proposal for the farther seeking into the Virtues of *English* Herbs, and the Manner of doing it with Ease and Safety.

The Whole intended for the Use of Families, and for the Instruction of those who are desirous of relieving the distressed Sick.

By Sir JOHN HILL, M. D.

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AT BOURDEAUX.

A NEW EDITION, Corrected.

LONDON:

Printed for A. Millar, W. Law, and R. Cater; and for Wilson and Spence, York.

M,DCC,LXXXIX.

(PRICE SIX SHILLINGS.)

81,822
S.3.59

H8.1
H36

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
MEDICAL
LIBRARY

TO THE HONOURABLE THE

Lady BETTY GERMAIN.

MADAM,

WHEN a Book intended for the benefit of mankind, written with that ſole view, and preferring uſe to oſtentation, required ſome name under whoſe protection it might be received with favour by the world, it will not appear ſtrange to any, unleſs perhaps to yourſelf, that yours ſhould be prefixed.

I am no flatterer, Madam, but I think it a duty thoſe who have it in their power to make truth public owe to mankind, that they ſhould place virtue in the moſt conſpicuous light. It is thus made more generally and more extenſively uſeful than it could be by any other means: And your humanity, benevolence, and generous charities, ſhall, being thus delivered to the public

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER MEDICAL LIBRARY

eye, and continued down perhaps to another generation, be an example to thoſe who never ſaw you, and bleſs the deſcendants of thoſe thouſands whom your hand has relieved.

Virtues, like yours, Madam, in any age, would have been conſpicuous; but in the preſent, where all goodneſs is ſo much diſregarded, they ſhine with a new luſtre. To be generous at a time when profuſion in follies renders others niggards in good things; to relieve, becauſe the object is diſtreſſed, not becauſe ſome particular voice or intereſt recommends him, and to maintain a ſenſe of religion as the ſupport of virtue, and a futurity as the period in which it ſhall be rewarded; at a time when partiality directs even thoſe who affect humanity, and when every thing ſacred is trod under foot, and Heaven itſelf treated as a chimera, this, Madam, is an honour, that in the eye of reaſon eclipſes all the pomp of rank, and all the oſtentation of title. It is more your

glory, Madam, to have claimed this character, than to have deſcended from the longeſt line of patriots and of heroes. It is for theſe the good will celebrate you; anticipating that praiſe which your pure ſpirit ſhall taſte, when angels ſing about it, as they conduct it to thoſe regions, which He, who loves virtue, has prepared for its reception.

Pardon a ſtranger, Madam, who addreſſes you in terms, ſuited not to the ordinary circumſtances of rank and title, thoſe others ſhare with you; but in that goodneſs in which, to the misfortune of the world, you are almoſt alone: and who knows the moſt that he can ſay will not be accounted flattery, becauſe, bad as men are in general, they all allow virtue to be amiable, and all allow that you poſſeſs it in the fulleſt character.

That you may yet long continue a bleſſing to the preſent age, is, Madam, the moſt ſincere wiſh of him who knows

he conſiders the intereſts of others more than your own in that deſire: And who is, with the moſt true reſpect,

MADAM,

Your LADYSHIP'S

moſt obedient and

moſt humble Servant,

John Hill.

THE PREFACE.

MANY books have been written upon the ſame ſubject with this, but if one of them had treated it in the ſame manner, this would have been rendered unneceſſary, and would never have employed the attention of its author.

IT is his opinion, that the true end of ſcience is uſe; and in this view, the preſent work has been undertaken: It appears to him a matter of more conſequence, and a ſubject of more ſatisfaction, to have diſcovered the virtues of one herb unknown before, than to have diſpoſed into their proper claſſes ſixteen thouſand; nay, ſo far will a ſenſe of utility get the better of the pride of mere curioſity, that he ſhould ſuppoſe this a thing preferable to be ſaid of him, to the having diſcovered ſome unknown ſpecies; to having picked from the bottom of ſome pond, an undeſcribed *conferva*, or to having fetched from the moſt remote parts of the

world, a kind of tree-moſs, with heads larger than thoſe at home.

It grieves a man of public ſpirit and humanity, to ſee thoſe things which are the means alone of the advantages of mankind ſtudied, while the end, that advantage itſelf, is forgotten. And in this view he will regard a *Culpepper*, as a more reſpectable perſon, than a *Linnæus* or a *Dillenius*.

That botany is an uſeful ſtudy is plain; becauſe it is in vain that we know betony is good for headachs, or ſelf-heal for wounds, unleſs we can diſtinguiſh betony and ſelf-heal from one another, and ſo it runs through the whole ſtudy. We are taught by it to know what plants belong to what names, and to know that very diſtinctly; and we ſhall be prevented by that knowledge from giving a purge for an aſtringent, a poiſon for a remedy; let us therefore eſteem the ſtudy of botany, but let us know, that this uſe of the diſtinctions it gives is the true end of it; and let us reſpect thoſe, who employ their lives in eſtabliſhing thoſe diſtinctions upon the moſt certain foundation, upon making them the moſt accurately, and carrying them the fartheſt poſſible: Theſe are the botaniſts; but with all the gratitude we owe them for their labours, and all the reſpect we ſhew them on that conſideration, let us underſtand them as but the ſeconds in this ſcience. The principal are thoſe who know how to bring their diſcoveries to uſe, and can ſay

what are the ends that will be anſwered by thoſe plants, which they have ſo accurately diſtinguiſhed. The boy collects the ſpecimens of herbs with great care, and beſtows ten years in paſting them upon paper, and writing their names to them: He does well. When he grows a man, he neglects his uſeful labours; and perhaps deſpiſes himſelf for the miſemployment of ſo much time: But if he has, to the knowledge of their forms, added afterward the ſtudy of their virtues, he will be far from cenſuring himſelf for all the pains he took to that end.

He who wiſhes well to ſcience and to mankind, muſt wiſh this matter underſtood: And this is the way to bring a part of knowledge into credit; which, as it is commonly practiſed, is not a jot above the ſtudies of a raiſer of tulips or a carnation-fancier.

When we conſider the ſtudy of plants, as the ſearch of remedies for diſeaſes, we ſee it in the light of one of the moſt honourable ſciences in the world; in this view no pains are too great to have been beſtowed in its acquirement; and in this intent, the principal regard ought to be had to thoſe of our own growth. The foreign plants, brought into our ſtoves with ſo much expence, and kept there with ſo much pains, may fill the eye with empty wonder: But it would be more to the honour of the poſſeſſor of them, to have found out

the uſe of one common herb at home, than to have enriched our country with an hundred of the others. Nay, in the eye of reaſon, this oſtentatious ſtudy is rather a reproach. Why ſhould he, who has not yet informed himſelf thoroughly of the nature of the meaneſt herb which grows in the next ditch, ranſack the earth for foreign wonders? Does he not fall under the ſame reproach with the generality of thoſe, who travel for their improvement, while they are ignorant of all they left at home; and who are ridiculous in their inquiries concerning the laws and government of other countries, while they are not able to give a ſatisfactory anſwer to any queſtion which regards their own?

I HAVE ſaid thus much to obviate the cenſures of thoſe to whom an inquiry into the virtues of herbs, may ſeem the province of a woman. It is an honour to the ſex, that they have put our ſtudies to uſe; but it would be well, if we had done ſo ourſelves; or if, conſidering that they might, we had made our writings more intelligible to them.

THE intent of words is to expreſs our meaning: Writings are publiſhed that they may be underſtood; and in this branch, I ſhall always ſuppoſe he writes beſt, who is to be underſtood moſt univerſally. Now ſo far are we from having had this point in view in botany, that more new and more ſtrange words have been introduced into it, than into all the ſciences together: And ſo remarkable

is the Swede before mentioned, Linnæus, for this; that a good ſcholar, nay the beſt ſcholar in the world, ſhall not be able to underſtand three lines together in his beſt writings, although they are written in Latin, a language in which he is ever ſo familiar. The author has not been at the pains to explain his new words himſelf, but refers his reader to nature; he bids him ſeek them in the flowers, where he found them.

THE farther we peruſe this conſideration, the more we ſhall find a book like the preſent neceſſary. It appears, that what are called the books in botany, far from being in the compaſs of many who wiſh to be uſeful in their knowledge of plants, are not to be underſtood by any, except a few, who follow the uſeleſs, though curious ſteps of the author; in many parts perhaps, only by the author himſelf. And as for the others which have not theſe faſhionable innovations, the beſt among them ſay nothing of their uſe or virtue at all. The authors eſteem this a particular branch of knowledge, and in this they are right. He who writes of the forms and figures of plants is a naturaliſt, and he who deſcribes their virtues ought to be a phyſician: He who writes a very good hiſtory of plants, may not have it in his power to ſpeak knowingly of their virtues, or the compaſs of his work may not give room for it, or his readers may not expect or deſire it; for this is the caſe with many who

MEDICAL LIBRARY

have only an empty curioſity. He therefore may, with reaſon, omit the virtues where he deſcribes the forms; but let him make it a matter of conſcience, if his knowledge extend ſo far, to do it himſelf, or if not, to recommend it to be done by ſome other.

We ſee that the moſt curious botaniſts have not concerned themſelves about the virtues of plants at all; that many of the others who have written well on plants, have thought it no part of their ſubject; let us examine the others, thoſe who are of leſs repute. If we look into the Engliſh Herbals in particular, we find them large upon that ſubject; indeed they are too large by much. They ſay ſo many things, that we know not which of them to credit, and therefore in the uncertainty we credit none of them. There is not the moſt trifling herb which they do not make a remedy for almoſt all diſeaſes. We may therefore as well take one plant for any caſe as another; and the whole of their labours amounts to this, that the Engliſh herbs are full of virtues, but that they know not what they are. If we add to the writers on herbs in our own country thoſe who ſtudy them, we ſhall find the very ſame uſeleſs curioſity. The apothecary's apprentice learns the names of plants that he may win the gingerbread-book by way of prize, but when he ſhould come to the uſe of them he neglects them, and often forgets the little

he had known ſo perfectly, that they ſell him vipers bugloſs for bugle in the markets, and he knows it is the right, becauſe the ſtalk is painted.

THOSE who ſearch into the nature in this province are not a whit better. I was introduced in Yorkſhire to one Brewer, who had contrived a dreſs on purpoſe for herbalizing, and had a maſk for his face, and pads to his knees, that he might creep into the thickets; when I talked with the man about his reſearches, they were after ſome new kind of moſs: He never had conſidered plants except to know how they differ from one another.

IN this ſituation, when knowledge is perplexed with unintelligible terms, and the memory of the ſtudent confounded with a multiplicity of names; when the ignorant only, who have written concerning plants, have given themſelves any troubles about their virtues; when phyſic is becoming entirely chymical, and a thouſand lives are thrown away daily by theſe medicines, which might be ſaved by a better practice; it appeared a uſeful undertaking to ſeparate the neceſſary from the frivolous knowledge, and to lay before thoſe who are inclined to do good to their diſtreſſed fellow-creatures, all that is neceſſary for them to know of botany for that purpoſe, and that in the moſt familiar manner,

and to add to this what experience has confirmed of the many things written by others concerning their virtues. This is the intent of the following work.

The plants are arranged according to the Engliſh alphabet, that the Engliſh reader may know where to find them: They are called by one name only in Engliſh, and one in Latin; and theſe are their moſt familiar names in thoſe languages; no matter what Caſpar, or John Bauhine, or Linnæus call them, they are here ſet down by thoſe names by which every one ſpeaks of them in Engliſh; and the Latin name is added, under which they will be found in every dictionary. To this is ſubjoined, a general deſcription of the plant, if it be a common one, in a line or two, that thoſe who already know it may turn at once to the uſes; and for ſuch as do not, a farther and more particular account is added. Laſt come the virtues, as they are confirmed by practice; and all this is delivered in ſuch words as are common, and to be underſtood by all,

Every thing that is ſuperfluous is omitted, that the uſeful part may remain upon the memory: And to all this is prefixed, in a large introduction, whatſoever can be neceſſary to complete the good intentions of the charitable in this way. There are rules for gathering and preſerving

herbs, and their ſeveral parts; directions for making ſuch preparations from them as can coveniently be prepared in families; and general admonitions and cautions in their reſpective uſes.

If I could have thought of any thing farther that could tend to the making the book more uſeful, I ſhould have added it: as it is, the candid reader is deſired to accept it, as written with a view to be of real ſervice to mankind.

DIRECTIONS to the BINDER for placing the PLATES.

PLATE I.	to face page	54
——— II.		152
——— III.		192
——— IV.		224
——— V.		285
——— VI.		317
——— VII.		351
——— VIII.		370

THE

Uſeful Family-Herbal.

INTRODUCTION.

Containing general Rules for the gathering and preſerving Herbs, Roots, Barks, Seeds, *and* Flowers; *together with the Methods of making ſuch Preparations from them, as may beſt retain their* Virtues, *or be moſt uſeful to be kept in Families.*

CHAP. I.

The Deſign and Purpoſe of the Work, and the Method obſerved in it.

THE intent of the Author in publiſhing this book, is to inform thoſe who live in the country, and are deſirous of being uſeful to their families and friends; or charitable to the poor, in the relief of their diſorders; of the virtues of thoſe plants, which grow wild about them: That they may be able to ſupply this neceſſary aſſiſtance, in places where apothecaries are not at hand; and that they may be able alſo to do it without putting themſelves to the expence of medicines of price, when the common herbs, that may be had for gathering, will anſwer the ſame purpoſe.

However, as there are caſes, in which more help may be had from drugs brought from abroad, than from any thing we can procure at home, an account of thoſe roots, barks, ſeeds, gums, and other vegetable productions, kept by the druggiſts and apothecaries, is alſo added; and of the ſeveral trees and plants from which they are obtained; together with their virtues.

This Work, therefore, will tend to inſtruct thoſe charitable ladies who may be deſirous of giving this great relief to the afflicted poor in their neighbourhood, and to remind apothecaries of what they had before ſtudied: But the firſt-mentioned purpoſe is by much the moſt uſeful, and the moſt conſiderable, and for this reaſon the greateſt regard is paid to it.

The plants are diſpoſed in the alphabet, according to their Engliſh names, that they may be turned to the more readily; and an account is given, in two or three lines, of their general aſpect and place of growth, that thoſe who in part know them already, may underſtand them at once: If they are not perfectly known from this, a more particular deſcription is added, by obſerving which, they cannot be miſtaken or confounded with any others; and after this follow, not only their virtues, as others are content to ſet them down, but the part of each plant which contains them in moſt perfection is named, and the manner in which they may beſt be given.

With regard to the virtues of plants, it has been the cuſtom to attribute too many to moſt of them: So much is ſaid more than the truth on theſe occaſions, that thoſe who would be informed, know not what they ſhould believe. This is more cautiouſly regulated here. The real virtues alone are ſet down, as they are aſſured by experience: And the principal of theſe are always ſet in the moſt conſpicuous light. Perhaps it may be allowed the Author, to ſpeak with more aſſurance than others of theſe things, becauſe he has been accuſtomed to the practice of phyſic in

that way. Very few things are named here, that he has not ſeen tried; and if ſome are ſet down, which other writers have not named, and ſome of which they have ſaid moſt, are ſlightly mentioned; it is owing to the ſame experience, which has added to the catalogue in ſome things, and has found it too great for truth in others.

Nature has in this country, and doubtleſs alſo in all others, provided in the herbs of its own growth, the remedies for the ſeveral diſeaſes to which it is moſt ſubject; and although the addition of what is brought from abroad, ſhould not be ſuppoſed ſuperfluous, there is no occaſion that it ſhould make the other neglected. This has been the conſequence of the great reſpect ſhewn to the others; and, beſide this, the preſent uſe of chemical preparations has almoſt driven the whole of Galenical medicine out of our minds.

To reſtore this more ſafe, more gentle, and often more efficacious, part of medicine to its natural credit, has been one great intent in the writing this treatiſe; and it is the more neceſſary for the ſervice of thoſe who are intended moſt to be directed in this matter, ſince this is much leſs dangerous than the other: Nay, it is hard to ſay, that this is dangerous at all in moſt inſtances.

The apothecaries are apt, in their unfeeling mockery, to ſay, they are obliged to the good ladies, who give medicines to their ſick neighbours, for a great deal of their buſineſs; for out of little diſorders they make great ones. This may be the caſe where their ſhops ſupply the means; for chemical medicines, and ſome of the drugs brought from abroad, are not to be truſted with thoſe who have not great experience; but there will be no danger of this kind, when the fields are the ſupply. This is the medicine of Nature, and as it is more efficacious in moſt caſes, it is more ſafe in all. If opium may be dangerous in an unexperienced hand, the lady who will

give in its place a ſyrup of the wild lettuce, (a plant not known in common practice at this time, but recommended from experience in this Treatiſe) will find that it will eaſe pain, and that it will cauſe ſleep, in the manner of that foreign drug, but ſhe will never find any ill conſequences from it: And the ſame might be ſaid in many other inſtances.

As the deſcriptions in this work, very readily diſtinguiſh what are the real plants that ſhould be uſed, and the great care will remain, in what manner to gather and preſerve, and in what manner to give them; it will be uſeful to add a chapter or two on thoſe heads. As to the former, I would have it perfectly underſtood, becauſe a great deal depends upon it; the latter cannot eaſily be miſtaken.

Having diſplaced the drugs brought from abroad in a great meaſure from this charitable practice, I would have every lady who has the ſpirit of this true benevolence, keep a kind of druggiſt's ſhop of her own: This ſhould be ſupplied from the neighbouring fields, and from her garden. There is no reaſon the drugs ſhould not be as well preſerved, and as carefully laid up, as if the product of a different climate, though the uſe of the freſh plants will in general be beſt when they can be had.

As there are ſome which will not retain their virtues in a dried ſtate, and can be met with only during a ſmall part of the year; it will be proper to add the beſt methods of preſerving theſe in ſome way, according to the apothecaries manner; and theſe chapters, with that which ſhall lay down the method of making the preparations from them for ready ſervice, will be ſufficient to lead to the perfect uſe of the medicines of our own growth: And it will be found upon experience, that thoſe who ſufficiently know how to make a proper uſe of theſe, need ſeldom have recourſe to any others.

CHAP. II.

Concerning the Methods of collecting and preſerving Plants, and parts of them for Uſe.

THE virtues of different plants reſiding principally in certain parts of them, and thoſe different according to the nature of the herb, theſe ſeveral parts are to be ſelected, and the reſt left; and theſe are in ſome to be uſed freſh and juſt gathered; in others, either neceſſity, or the natural preference, make it proper to dry and preſerve them.

In ſome only the leaves are to be uſed, in others the whole plant cut from the root, in others the flowers only, in others the fruits, in others the ſeeds, in ſome the roots, and of ſome trees the barks, ſome the woods, and only the excreſcences of others; while ſome vegetables are to be uſed entire, whether it be freſh gathered, or dried and preſerved. Of all theſe, inſtances will be given in great number in the following ſheets, and the matter will be ſpecified under each article, as the part of the plant to be uſed will always be named; and it will be added, whether it be beſt freſh, or beſt or neceſſarily dried, or otherwiſe preſerved; but it will be proper in this place to enter into the full examination of this matter, to ſave unneceſſary repetitions under the ſeveral particular articles.

The whole of moſt plants, native of our country, dies off in winter, except the root; and in many that periſhes alſo, leaving the ſpecies to be renewed from the fallen ſeeds. When the whole plant dies, the root is ſeldom of any virtue; but when the root remains many years, and ſends up new ſhoots in the ſpring, it commonly has great virtue. This may be a general rule: For there is very little to be expected in the roots of annual plants: Their ſeeds, for the moſt part, contain their greateſt virtues.

In others, the root lives through the winter, and there ariſe from it large leaves in the ſpring, before the ſtalk appears. Theſe are to be diſtinguiſhed from thoſe which afterwards grow on the ſtalk, for they are more juicy, and for many purpoſes much better. In the ſame manner, ſome plants, from their ſeeds dropped in autumn, produce a root and leaves which ſtand all the winter, and the ſtalk does not riſe till the ſucceeding ſpring. Theſe are of the nature of thoſe leaves, which riſe from the root of other plants before the ſtalks in ſpring; and are in the ſame manner to be diſtinguiſhed from thoſe which grow upon the ſtalks: They have the full nouriſhment from the root, whereas the others are ſtarved by the growth of the ſtalk and its branches, and the preparations made by nature for the flowers and ſeeds; which are the great purpoſe of Nature, as they are to continue the plant.

For this reaſon, when the leaves of any plant are ſaid to be the part fitteſt for uſe, they are not to be taken from the ſtalk; but theſe large ones growing from the root are to be choſen; and theſe, where there is no ſtalk, if that can be; for then only they are fulleſt of juice, and have their complete virtue; the ſtalk running away with the nouriſhment from them. This is ſo much done in ſome plants, that although the leaves growing from the root were very vigorous before the ſtalk grew up, they die and wither as it riſes.

When the juice of the leaves of any plant is required, theſe are the leaves from which it is to be preſſed: When they are ordered in decoction, notice is always taken in this book, whether they be beſt freſh or dried; if freſh, they ſhould be juſt gathered for the occaſion, they ſhould be cut up cloſe from the root, and only ſhook clean, not waſhed; for in many, that carries off a part of the virtue, and they are to be cut into the pot. If they are to be dried, the ſame caution is to be uſed, and they are beſt dried, by

ſpreading them upon the floor of the room, with the windows open, often turning them. When thoroughly dried, they ſhould be put up in a drawer, preſſing them cloſe down, and covered with paper. When the entire plant is to be uſed except the root, care is to be taken that it be gathered at a proper ſeaſon. Nature in the whole growth of plants, tends to the production of their flowers and ſeeds, but when they are ripe, the reſt begins to decay, having done its duty: ſo that the time when the entire plant is in its moſt full perfection, is when it is in the bud; when the heads are formed for flowering, but not a ſingle flower has yet diſcloſed itſelf: This is the exact time.

When herbs are to be uſed freſh, it is beſt not to take them entire, but only to cut off the tops; three or four inches long, if for infuſion; and if for other purpoſes, leſs: If they are to be beaten up with ſugar, they ſhould be only an inch, or leſs: juſt as far as they are freſh and tender. The tops of the plant thus gathered, are always preferable to the whole plant for immediate uſe.

When the entire herb is to be dried, the ſeaſon for gathering it is to be as juſt deſcribed, when the flowers are buding; and the time of the day muſt be when the morning dew is dried away. This is a very material circumſtance, for if they be cut wet with the dew, herbs will not dry well, and if they be cut at noon-day, when the ſun has made the leaves flag, they will not have their full power.

Care muſt alſo be taken, to cut them in a dry day; for the wet of rain will do as much harm, as that of dew.

When the herbs are thus gathered, they are to be looked over, the decayed leaves picked off, and the dead ends of the ſtalks cut away: They are then to be tied up in ſmall bunches, the leſs the better; and hung upon lines drawn acroſs a room, where the windows and doors are to be kept open in good weather; the bunches are to be half a foot aſunder,

and they are to hang till perfectly dry. They are then to be taken ſoftly down, without ſhaking off the buds of the flowers, and laid evenly in a drawer, preſſing them down, and covering them with paper. They are thus ready for infuſions or decoctions, and are better for diſtillation, than when freſh.

The flowers of plants are principally uſed freſh, though ſeveral particular kinds retain their virtue very well dried; they are on theſe different occaſions to be treated differently.

Lavender-flowers, and thoſe of ſtœcha, keep very well, they are therefore to be preſerved dry; the lavender-flowers are to be ſtripped off the ſtalks, huſk and all together, and ſpread upon the floor of a room to dry: The ſtœchas flowers are to be preſerved in the whole head; this is to be cut off from the top of the ſtalk, and dried in the ſame manner: When dry, they are to be kept as the herbs.

When roſemary flowers are dried, they are generally taken with ſome of the leaves about them, and this is very right, for the leaves retain more virtue than the flowers. Some dry borage, bugloſs, and cowſlips, but they retain very little in that condition. Roſe-buds are to be dried, and to this purpoſe, their white heads are to be cut off; and the full blown flowers may be preſerved in the ſame manner. The red roſe is always meant, when we ſpeak of the dried flowers.

For the reſt of the flowers uſed in medicine, they are beſt freſh, but as they remain only a ſmall part of the year in that ſtate, the method is to preſerve them in the form of ſyrups and conſerves. Such as the ſyrup of cloves and poppies, the conſerves of cowſlips, and the like. Of theſe a ſhort general account ſhall be ſubjoined, that nothing may be wanting to make this book as uſeful for families, as the nature of ſuch a one will admit.

Among the fruits of plants, ſeveral are to be uſed freſh, as the hip for conſerve, and the quince, mul-

berry, and black currant; from the juices of which ſyrups are made. As to thoſe which are to be dried, as the juniper-berries, the bay-berries, and the like, they are only to be gathered when juſt ripening, not when quite mellow, and ſpread upon a table or floor, often turning them, till they are dry. But of theſe we uſe very few of our own growth; moſt of the fruits uſed in medicine are brought from abroad, and muſt be purchaſed of the druggiſt or apothecary.

With reſpect to the ſeeds and plants, it is otherwiſe: Many of them are of our own growth, and nothing is ſo eaſy as to preſerve them. Theſe are all to be uſed dry; but nature has in a manner dried them to our hands; for they are not to be gathered till perfectly ripe, and then they need very little farther care. They are only to be ſpread for three or four days upon a clean floor, where the air has free paſſage, but where the ſun does not come; and they are then ready to be put up.

The ſeeds uſed in medicine may be referred to three general kinds. They either grow in naked heads or umbels, as in fennel, parſley, and the like; or in pods, as in muſtard and creſſes; or in large fleſhy fruits, as in melon and cucumbers. In each caſe they muſt be left upon the plant, till perfectly ripe; then they are only to be ſhook from the heads upon the floor; or if in pods, a ſmart ſtroke or two of the plant upon the floor, when they are thoroughly ripe, will diſlodge them. In the other caſe, the fruit muſt be cut open, and they muſt be taken out from among the wet matter, ſeparated from the membranes that are about them, and ſpread upon a table in a dry place, where they muſt be often turned and rubbed as they grow dry, that in the end they may be perfectly dry and clean.

Among the roots, a great many are to be uſed freſh, but a greater number are beſt dried. The black and white bryony, the arum, and ſome others, loſe all their virtue in drying; and many that retain ſome,

yet loſe the greater part of it: There are others which are excellent both freſh and dried, as the marſhmallow and ſome more.

As to the few which loſe their virtue entirely in drying, it will be beſt to keep ſome of them always in the garden, that they may be taken up as they are wanted. The others are to be managed according to their ſeveral natures, and they do a great deal toward the furniſhing this druggiſt's ſhop, which ſhould be filled with medicines, the produce of our own country.

The beſt ſeaſon for gathering roots for drying, is in the earlier part of the ſpring: What Nature does for plants when they are juſt going to flower, ſhe does for roots when the leaves are juſt going to bud: The juices are rich, freſh, and full, and the virtue is ſtrongeſt in them at this ſeaſon, therefore they are to be then taken up.

In the end of February and the beginning of March, the ground ſhould be ſearched for the firſt budding of leaves, and the roots taken up. They are to be wiped clean, not waſhed; and, according to their ſeveral natures, prepared for drying.

Some are full of a mucilaginous juice, as marſh-mallow, and above all other roots the ſquill, and in ſome degree many others of that kind; theſe muſt be cut into thin ſlices croſs-wiſe, and they will dry beſt if laid upon a hair-cloth ſtretched acroſs a frame. They muſt be frequently turned; and be very thoroughly dry, before they are put up; elſe they will become mouldy: But, rightly prepared, they keep very well.

Other roots have juices, that evaporate more eaſily. Theſe have the virtue either throughout the whole ſubſtance, or only in the outer part, and they are to be prepared accordingly. When roots are of one uniform ſubſtance, they generally have the virtue equal, or nearly ſo, in all parts. Theſe ſhould be ſplit open length-wiſe, firſt cutting off the head, and

the little end; or if conſiderably thick, they may be quartered; when this is done, they are to be ſtrung upon a line, by drawing a needle threaded with a ſmall twine through their thickeſt part, and they are then to be hung up to dry in the manner of the herbs; the line being ſtretched acroſs a room, the doors and windows of which are to be kept open in good weather.

When the roots conſiſt of a ſort of thick rind, or fleſhy ſubſtance within the rind, and a hard ſticky part in the middle; this fleſhy ſubſtance under it poſſeſſes all the virtues, the hard inner ſubſtance having none; in this caſe, the root is to be ſplit longwiſe as before, and the hard woody part is to be taken out and thrown away; the reſt is to be ſtrung as before deſcribed, and dried in the ſame manner.

When roots conſiſt of fibres, theſe are generally connected to a head, if it be ever ſo ſmall, and the beſt way is to ſplit this in two, and then ſtring up the ſeperate parts for drying.

It is needleſs to enumerate the examples of the ſeveral kinds of roots here; they follow in their places: But if the charitable lady would on firſt looking over this book, to ſee what are moſt uſeful, order her gardener to take out of his ground, and to ſeek in the fields the ſeveral roots there mentioned, and ſee them dried and preſerved according to theſe directions; ſhe would be poſſeſſed of a ſet of drugs of a new kind indeed, but they would ſave the price of many brought from other countries, and might be uſed with leſs danger.

The barks of trees make but a ſmall part of the Engliſh drugs, and moſt of them are beſt freſh, but ſuch as will preſerve and retain their virtues dried, are very eaſily prepared that way: Nothing more is required, than to cut them into moderate pieces, and ſtring them up in the ſame manner as the roots. When they are dry they are to be put up as the others; and they will keep ever ſo long; but in all

this time they are for the moſt part loſing of their virtues.

It may be prudent to preſerve drugs brought from abroad a great while, becauſe of their price; but as theſe coſt only the trouble of gathering and preſerving them, I would adviſe, that the whole ſhop be renewed every year; and what is left of the old parcel of every kind, being thrown away as the freſh one is collected in its ſeaſon.

The place for keeping theſe ſhould be a dry room, neither damp nor hot; and they ſhould now and then be looked at, to ſee that they are in order; that they do not grow mouldy, or ſmell muſty through damp, or become lighter, and loſe their virtue by too much heat.

It may be juſt proper to mention, that the woods which we uſe, are beſt kept in the block, and ſhaved off as they are wanted; for being kept in ſhavings, they loſe their virtue: And in the ſame manner as to the foreign woods, it is beſt to keep a block of ſaſſafras, and of *lignum vitæ* in the houſe, and cut them as they are wanted.

As to the excreſſences, ſuch as galls of the oak, and the bur upon the wild briar, they are naturally ſo dry, that they only require to be expoſed a few days to the air upon a table, and then they may be put up with ſafety, and will keep a long time.

Laſtly, the funguſſes, ſuch as Jews-ears, and the like, are to be gathered when they are full grown, and ſtrung upon a line, that they may dry leiſurely, for elſe they ſpoil: They muſt be very well dried before they are put up, elſe they will grow mouldy in damp weather; and if once that happen, no art can recover their virtues.

Thus may a druggiſt's ſhop of a new kind be filled, and it will conſiſt of as many articles, as thoſe which receive their furniture from abroad; and there will be this advantage in having every thing ready; that when cuſtom has made the virtues of the ſeveral

things familiar, the lady may do from her judgment as the phyſician in his preſcription, mix ſeveral things of like virtue together, and not depend upon the virtues of any one ſingly, when the caſe requires ſomething of power. Theſe roots and barks powdered, will make as handſome and as efficacious boluſſeſs and mixtures, as any furniſhed by the apothecary.

CHAP. III.

Concerning the various Methods of preparing Simples for preſent Uſe.

THERE is no form of medicines ſent from the apothecary, which may not be prepared from the herbs of our own growth, in the ſame manner as from foreign drugs. Electuaries may be made with the powders of theſe barks, roots, and ſeeds, with conſerves of flowers, and of the tops of freſh herbs: And ſyrups, made from their juices and infuſions; the manner of making which is very ſimple, and ſhall be ſubjoined to this chapter, that all may be underſtood before we enter on the Book itſelf: And in the ſame manner their boluſſes may be made, which are only ſome of theſe powders mixed up with ſyrup: And their draughts and juleps, which are made from the diſtilled waters of theſe herbs, with ſpirit or without, theſe ſyrups being added, and the tinctures of the roots and barks; the method of making which ſhall be alſo annexed in a familiar manner.

But beſide theſe ſeveral forms of giving them, there are others much more ſimple, eaſy, and ready, and theſe are generally more efficacious. I ſhall arrange theſe under three kinds, Juices, Infuſions, and Decoctions. Theſe are the forms of giving the medicines moſt frequently mentioned in the courſe of the work, and there is leſs trouble in them, than in the

others. They are not indeed contrived for ſhew, nor would they anſwer the purpoſe of the apothecary, for his profits would be ſmall upon them; but when the deſign is only to do good, they are the moſt to be choſen of any.

Juices are to be expreſſed from leaves or roots; and in order to this, they are to be firſt beaten in a mortar. There is no form whatever in which herbs have ſo much effect, and yet this is in a manner unknown in the common practice of phyſic.

Theſe are to be obtained in ſome plants from the entire herb, as in water-creſſes, brooklime, and others that have juicy ſtalks, in others the leaves only are to be uſed, as in nettles, and the like, where the ſtalk is dry and yields nothing; but is troubleſome in the preparation. When the juice of a root is to be had, it muſt be freſh taken up, and thoroughly beaten. A marble mortar and wooden peſtle, ſerve beſt for this purpoſe, for any thing of metal is improper: Many plants would take a tincture from it, and the juice would be ſo impregnated with it, as to become a different medicine, and probably very improper in the caſe in which it was about to be given.

As theſe juices have ſometimes an ill taſte, and as ſome of them are apt to be cold upon the ſtomach, or otherwiſe to diſagree with it, there are methods to be uſed, to make them ſit better upon it; and in ſome caſes theſe increaſe their virtues.

When the thick juice, freſh drawn, is too coarſe for the perſon's ſtomach, it may be ſuffered to ſettle and grow clear: A little ſugar may be added alſo in beating the herb, and in many caſes, as in thoſe juices given for the ſcurvy, the juice of a Seville orange may be added, which will greatly improve the flavour.

To the roots, it is often proper to add a little white wine in the bruiſing, and they will operate the better for it. Thus for inſtance; the juice of the flower-

de-luce root will not ſtay upon many ſtomachs alone; but with a little white-wine added in the bruiſing, all becomes eaſy: and its effects are not the leſs for the addition. The ſame addition may be made to ſome of the colder herbs; and if a little ſugar, and upon occaſion a few grains of powdered ginger be added, there will be ſcarce any fear of the medicine diſagreeing with the ſtomach, and its effects will be the ſame, as if it had been bruiſed and preſſed alone.

Infuſions are naturally to be mentioned after the juices, for they are in many caſes uſed to ſupply their place. Juices can only be obtained from freſh plants, and there are times of the year when the plants are not to be had in that ſtate. Recourſe is then to be had to the ſhop, inſtead of the field; the plant whoſe juice cannot be had, is there to be found dried and preſerved; and if that have been done according to the preceding directions, it retains a great part of its virtues; in this caſe it is to be cut in pieces, and hot water being poured upon it, extracts ſo much of its qualities, as to ſtand in the place of the other. Often indeed the virtues are the ſame: In ſome plants they are greateſt from the infuſion; but then ſome others loſe ſo much in drying, that an infuſion ſcarce has any thing. But it is not only as a help in the place of the other, that this preparation is to be uſed, for infuſions are very proper from many freſh herbs; and are of great virtue from many dry ones, of which, when freſh, the juice would have been worth little.

Infuſions are the fitteſt forms for thoſe herbs whoſe qualities are light, and whoſe virtue is eaſily extracted: In this caſe, hot water poured upon them takes up enough of their virtue, and none is loſt in the operation: Others require to be boiled in the water. From theſe are thus made what we call Decoctions: And as theſe laſt would not give their virtues in infuſion, ſo the others would loſe it all in the boiling. It would go off with the vapour. We know very

well, that the diſtilled water of any herb is only the vapour of the boiled herb caught by proper veſſels, and condenſed to water: Therefore, whether it be caught or let to fly away, all that virtue muſt be loſt in boiling. It is from this, that ſome plants are fit for decoctions, and ſome for infuſions. There are ſome, which, if diſtilled, give no virtue to the water, and theſe are fit for decoctions, which will retain all their virtue, as biſtort, and tormentill roots, and the like. On the contrary, an infuſion of mint, or pennyroyal, is of a ſtrong taſte, and excellent virtue; whereas a decoction of theſe herbs is diſagreeable or good for nothing.

There are herbs alſo, which have ſo little juice, that it would be impoſſible to get it out; and others whoſe virtue lies in the huſks and buds, and this would be loſt in the operation. An infuſion of theſe is the right way of giving them. Thus mother-of-thyme is a dry little herb, from which it would be hard to get any juice, and when gotten, it would poſſeſs very little of its virtues; but an infuſion of mother-of-thyme poſſeſſes it entirely.

Infuſions are of two kinds. They are either prepared in quantity, to be drank cold; or they are drank as they are made in the manner of tea. This laſt method is the beſt, but people will not be prevailed upon to do it, unleſs the taſte of the herb be agreeable: For the flavour is much ſtronger hot than it is cold.

Infuſions in the manner of tea, are to be made juſt as tea, and drank with a little ſugar: The others are to be made in this manner.

A ſtone-jar is to be fitted with a cloſe cover, the herb, whether freſh or dried, is to be cut in pieces, and when the jar has been ſcalded out with hot water, it is to be put in: Boiling water is then to be poured upon it, and the top is to be fixed on: It is thus to ſtand four, five, or ſix hours, or a whole

night, according to the nature of the ingredient, and then to be poured off clear.

It is impoſſible to direct the quantity in general for theſe infuſions, becauſe much more of ſome plants is required than of others: For the moſt part, three quarters of an ounce of a dried plant, or two ounces of the freſh gathered. The beſt rule is to ſuit it to the patient's ſtrength and palate. It is intended not to be diſagreeable, and to have as much virtue of the herb as is neceſſary. This is only to be known in each kind by trial; and the virtue may be heightened, as well as the flavour mended, by ſeveral additions. Of theſe, ſugar and a little white-wine are the moſt familiar, but lemon-juice is often very ſerviceable, as we find in ſage-tea; and a few drops of oil of vitriol gives colour and ſtrength to a tincture of roſes. Salt of tartar makes many infuſions ſtronger alſo than they would be, but it gives them a very diſagreeable taſte. It is therefore fit only for ſuch as are to be taken at one draught, not for ſuch as are to be ſwallowed in large quantities time after time.

Among the herbs that yield their virtues moſt commodiouſly by infuſion, may be accounted many of thoſe which are pectoral, and good in coughs, as colts-foot, ground-ivy, and the like; the light and aromatic, good in nervous diſorders, or mother-of-thyme, baum, and the like; the bitters are alſo excellent in infuſion, but very diſagreeable in decoction: Thus boiling water, poured upon Roman wormwood, gentian-root, and orange-peel, makes a very excellent bitter. It need only ſtand till the liquor is cold, and may be then poured off for uſe.

It is often proper to add ſome purging ingredient to this bitter infuſion, and a little freſh polypody-root excellently anſwers that purpoſe, without ſpoiling the taſte of the medicine.

Several of the purging plants alſo do very well in infuſion, as purging flax, and the like; and the freſh root of polypody alone is a very good one; a little

lemon-juice added to the laſt named infuſion does no harm; and it takes off what is diſagreeable in the taſte, in the ſame manner as it does from an infuſion of ſena.

Thus we ſee what a great number of purpoſes may be anſwered by infuſions, and they are the moſt familiar of all preparations. Nothing is required but pouring ſome boiling water upon the plants, freſh or dried, as already directed, and pouring it off again when cold.

Decoctions are contrived to anſwer the purpoſe of infuſions upon plants which are of ſo firm a texture, that they will not eaſily yield forth their uſeful parts. In theſe the ingredients are to be boiled in the water; as in the others, the boiling water was to be poured over them. In general, leaves, flowers, and entire plants, whether freſh or dried, are uſed in infuſions; and roots and barks in decoctions.

An earthen-pipkin, with a cloſe cover, is the beſt veſſel for preparing theſe: for many of thoſe medicines, which are little ſuſpected of it, will take a tincture from the metal; and it would be as improper to boil them in a copper-pan, as it is too common a cuſtom, as to beat the herbs and roots in a metal mortar.

Freſh roots are uſed in decoction, as well as thoſe which are dried; and the barks, and other ingredients in like manner. When the freſh are uſed, the roots are to be cut into thin ſlices, and the barks and woods ſhould be ſhaved down; as to the leaves and entire plants, they need be cut but ſlightly. When dry ingredients are uſed, the roots and barks are beſt pounded to pieces; and as to the herbs and flowers, little is to be done to them, and, in general, they are beſt added toward the end of the decoction.

It is always beſt to let the ingredients of a decoction ſtand in the water cold for twelve hours before it is ſet on the fire, and then it ſhould be heated gradually, and afterwards kept boiling gently as long as

is neceſſary: and this is to be proportioned to the nature of the ingredients. Generally a quarter of an hour is ſufficient, ſometimes much longer is neceſſary. They are then to be ſtrained off while they are hot, preſſing them hard, and the liquor ſet by to cool: When they are thoroughly cold, they are to be poured off clear from the ſettlement, for they always become clear as they cool, and ſweetened with a little ſugar. Frequently alſo, it is proper to add to them a little white-wine, as to the infuſions.

CHAP. IV.

Concerning Diſtilled Waters, and other Preparations to be kept in the Houſe.

I SHALL bring the charitable lady farther in this matter than perhaps ſhe was aware at the firſt ſetting out; but it will be with little expence, and little trouble. She will find, that I now intend ſhe ſhould keep a ſort of chymiſt's, or at leaſt an apothecary's ſhop, as well as a druggiſt's; but it will be founded upon the ſame materials. No drugs brought from abroad, or to be purchaſed at a great price, will have a place in it: They are all natives of our own country; and the preparation of theſe medicines from them will coſt only a little ſpirit, a little ſugar, and the labour of a ſervant.

That ſpirit is beſt which is called *moloſſes ſpirit*; it is to be bought at a ſmall price at the diſtillers: And as to the ſugar, the moſt ordinary loaf kind will do for moſt purpoſes: Where other is neceſſary, it will be particularly named.

Few families are without an alembic, or ſtill, and that will be of material ſervice. With that inſtrument the ſimple waters are to be made, with no expence beſide the fire, and it will be proper to keep thoſe of the following ingredients.

Mint-water, peppermint-water, and pennyroyal-water, are to be made of the dry herbs. Three pounds of each is to be put into the ſtill, with four gallons of water, and two gallons is to be diſtilled off. Milk-water is to be made thus; a pound and a half of ſpear-mint, a pound of rue, half a pound of Roman wormwood, and half a pound of angelica leaves, are to be put into the ſtill with five gallons of water, and three gallons are to be diſtilled off. Common mint-water is good in ſickneſſes of the ſtomach, peppermint-water in cholics, and pennyroyal to promote the menſes. Milk-water is good in fevers, and to make juleps. It uſed to be made with milk, but that anſwers no purpoſe. Only one ſimple water more need be kept, and that for cholics, it is beſt made of Jamaica pepper: A pound of Jamaica pepper is to be put into the ſtill over night, with three gallons of water; and the next morning two gallons of water diſtilled off.

It has been cuſtomary to keep a great many ſimple waters, but theſe are all that are neceſſary or proper. The other herbs are better to be given in infuſion and decoction.

As for cordial waters, they are made as the others, only with the addition of ſpirit. It may be proper to keep the following; and no more are neceſſary.

1. Cinnamon-water, which is made by putting into the ſtill a pound of cinnamon, a gallon of ſpirit, and a gallon of water, and the next day diſtilling off a gallon. This is good in ſickneſs at the ſtomach, and is a fine cordial.

2. Spirituous milk-water, made from a pound of ſpearmint, half a pound of angelica, and a quarter of a pound of Roman wormwood, all green. To theſe is to be put a gallon of ſpirit, and a gallon of water, and a gallon to be diſtilled off; to which is to be added, a pint of vinegar: This is good to promote ſweat, and is uſed inſtead of treacle-water, being better.

3. Strong pennyroyal-water, which is uſed inſtead of hyſteric-water in all hyſteric caſes, and to promote the menſes, and is made of a pound and a half of dry pennyroyal, a gallon of ſpirit, and ſix quarts of water, drawing off a gallon.

4. Anniſeed-water, which is good in the cholic, and is made with a pound of anniſeed, a pound of angelica-ſeed, and two gallons of ſpirit, with one gallon of water, diſtilling off two gallons. No more than theſe are neceſſary. But before I cloſe this article of diſtilling, I ſhall add the making of lavender-water, ſpirit of lavender, and Hungary-water, which are preparations of the ſame kind, and very eaſy.

Lavender-water is made from a pound of freſh lavender-flowers, and a gallon of moloſſes ſpirit, with two quarts of water; five pints is to be diſtilled off. Hungary-water is made of a pound and a half of roſemary-tops, with the flowers, a gallon of ſpirit, and a gallon of water, diſtilling off five pints: And to make the ſpirit of lavender, or palſey-drops, mix three pints of lavender-water, and one pint of Hungary-water, and add to this half an ounce of cinnamon, the ſame quantity of nutmegs, and three drams of red Saunders-wood, theſe are to ſtand together till the ſpirit is well coloured.

This is all the family practitioner will need with diſtilling: A ſhort account, but ſufficient.

As for tinctures, which are a great article with the apothecary and chymiſt, making a great ſhew, and really very uſeful: I would have ſeveral of them kept, and they are as eaſily made as the waters, nay more eaſily. Moloſſes ſpirit is all that is neceſſary for this purpoſe.

It would be well to keep tinctures of all thoſe roots and barks, which are ſaid to be good dried in the courſe of this work; for a tincture will contain more or leſs of the virtue of every one of theſe, and be often convenient, where the powder, or decoction, could not be given. It is needleſs to enumerate theſe,

and one rule of making ſerves for them all: Two ounces of the ingredient is to be cut in thin ſlices, or bruiſed in a mortar, and put into a quart of ſpirit; it is to ſtand a fortnight, in a place a little warm, and be often ſhook; at the end of this time it is to be taken out, ſtrained off, and made to paſs through a funnel, lined with whitiſh brown paper, and put up with the name of the ingredient.

To theſe tinctures of the Engliſh roots, barks, and ſeeds, it would be well to add a few made of foreign ingredients.

As, 1. The bitter tincture for the ſtomach is made of two ounces of gentian, an ounce of dried orange-peel, and half an ounce of cardamon-ſeeds, and a quart of ſpirit: Or it may be made in white-wine, allowing two quarts.

2. Tincture of caſtor, good in hyſteric complaints, and made with two ounces of caſtor and a quart of ſpirit.

3. Tincture of bark, which will cure thoſe who will not take the powder, made of four ounces of bark, and a quart of ſpirit.

4. Tincture of ſoot, for fits, made with two ounces of wood-ſoot, one ounce of aſafœtida, and a quart of ſpirit.

5. Tincture of ſteel, for the ſtoppage of the menſes, made of flowers of iron, four ounces, and ſpirit a quart.

6. Tincture of myrrh, made of three ounces of myrrh, and a quart of ſpirit, good for curing the ſcurvy in the gums.

7. Tincture of rhubarb, made of two ounces of rhubarb, half an ounce of cardamon-ſeeds, and a quarter of an ounce of ſaffron, with a quart of ſpirit.

8. Elixir ſalutis, made of a pound of ſtoned raiſins, a pound of ſena, an ounce and a half of carraway-ſeeds, and half an ounce of cardamons, in a gallon of ſpirit.

9. Elixir of vitriol, made of ſix drams of cinnamon, three drams of cardamons, two drams of long pepper, and the ſame of ginger, and a quart of ſpirit: To a pint of this tincture, ſtrained clear off, is to be added four ounces of oil of vitriol: This is an excellent ſtomachic. Laſtly, to theſe it may be well to add, the famous friars-balſam, which is made of three ounces of benjamin, two ounces of ſtrained ſtorax, one ounce of balſam of Tolu, half an ounce of aloes, and a quart of ſpirit of wine, ſuch as is burnt under lamps. This ſpirit may be made by putting a gallon of moloſſes ſpirit into the ſtill, and drawing off two quarts, and this will be uſeful for ſpirit of wine and camphire, which is made by diſſolving an ounce of camphire in a quart of the ſpirit. Laſtly, we are to add what is called the *aſthmatic elixir*, made with flower of benjamin and opium, of each a dram, camphire two ſcruples, oil of anniſeed forty drops, liquorice-root half an ounce, honey one ounce, and a quart of ſpirit. This is a gentle opiate, and is much better in families than the ſtrong laudanum.

As to the tinctures made with white-wine inſtead of ſpirit, a few are ſufficient. Steel-wine is made of a quarter of a pound of filings of iron, and half an ounce of mace, and the ſame quantity of cinnamon, put into two quarts of Rheniſh. Hiera-picra is made of half a pound of aloes, two ounces of winters-bark, and five quarts of white-wine. The firſt is a reſtorative cordial and ſtrengthener; the latter is ſufficiently known as a purge. Laudanum is made of two ounces of opium, a dram of cloves, and a dram of cinnamon, and a pint of wine. Viper-wine is made of two ounces of dried vipers, and two quarts of white-wine; and the tincture of ipecacuanha for a vomit, of two ounces of that root, half an ounce of dry orange-peel, and a quart of ſack. Laſtly, what is called elixir proprietatis, is made of aloes, myrrh, and ſaffron, of each an ounce, ſal ammoniac ſix drams,

and ſalt of tartar eight ounces, in a quart of mountain-wine.

Theſe are all the tinctures and wines that need be kept in a family, whoſe charity is deſigned to be very extenſive, the expence of the whole is a trifle not worth naming, and the trouble ſcarce any thing. Books are full of directions in particular for every tincture, as if every one were to be made a different way; but the beſt method is to give a good deal of time and frequent ſhaking, and that will ſtand in the place of heat in moſt things of this kind: Nevertheleſs, I adviſe that they ſhould ſtand in a room where a fire is kept while they are making; and thoſe which require heat, that is, thoſe that take a colour moſt ſlowly are to be placed neareſt to it.

Eaſy as theſe are, they are by far the moſt difficult part of the taſk, the reſt is as it were nothing. Conſerves, ſyrups, and ointments, will be wanting, but in the ſame manner one direction will ſerve for the making the whole aſſortment of each, and the ingredients will be at hand. As to plaiſters, in general they do more harm than good. Surgeons at this time make very little uſe of them; and in the courſe of this work, many herbs will be named, the bruiſed leaves of which are better than all the plaiſters in the world.

Conſerves ſhould be made of rue, mint, ſcurvy-graſs, wood-ſorrel, and Roman wormwood. As to the four firſt, the leaves are to be picked off from the ſtalks, and beaten up with three times the weight of ſugar. The tops of the young ſhoots of the latter are to be cut off, and they are to be beat up in the ſame manner. In the courſe of this work many plants will be named, the green tops of which contain their virtue; theſe may all be made into conſerves in the ſame manner, or as many of them added to thoſe here named as ſhall be thought proper.

Conſerves of the flowers of roſemary, mallows, archangel, and lavender, are to be made alſo in the ſame

manner, and of red roſe-buds. Theſe laſt are to be picked from the huſk, and the white heels are to be cut off. They are all to be beat up with three times their weight of ſugar, and in the ſame manner may be made conſerves of cowſlip-flowers, and of thoſe of many other plants mentioned in the following pages.

The outer rinds of Seville oranges and lemons, are alſo to be made into conſerves in the ſame manner, beating them firſt to a pulp, and then adding the ſugar, and to theſe muſt be added the conſerve of hips and ſloes, which are to be made in a particular manner. The hips are to be gathered when fully ripe, afterwards ſet by in a cellar, till they grow very ſoft; then they are to be laid upon the back of a large hair-ſieve, a diſh being put underneath, they are to be broke with the hand or a wooden-peſtle, and rubbed about till all the ſoft matter is forced through the hair-cloth, the ſeeds and ſkins only remaining. This ſoft matter is to be weighed, and to be beat up in a mortar with twice its weight of loaf-ſugar, firſt powdered.

Sloes are to be gathered when they are moderately ripe, and they are to be ſet over the fire in water, till they ſwell and are ſoftened, but not till the ſkin burſts; they are then to be laid upon a ſieve, and the ſoft matter driven through as in the other caſe, and three times the quantity of ſugar is to be mixed with this, that it may make a conſerve by beating together.

Syrups are to be made of many ingredients: They may be made indeed of any infuſion, with ſugar added to it in a due quantity; and the way to add this, ſo that the ſyrups ſhall keep and not candy, is to proportion the ſugar to the liquor very exactly. One rule will ſerve for all this matter, and ſave a great deal of repetition. The liquor of which a ſyrup is to be made, may be the juice of ſome herb or fruit, or a decoction, or an infuſion; which ever it be, let it ſtand till quite clear, then to every wine-pint of it,

add a pound and three quarters of loaf-ſugar, firſt beat to powder: Put the ſugar and the liquor together, into an earthen-pan that will go into a large ſauce-pan, put water into the ſauce-pan, and ſet it over the fire. Let the pan ſtand in it, till the ſugar is perfectly melted, ſcumming it all the time, then as ſoon as it is cold, it may be put up for uſe, and will keep the year round without danger.

This being ſet down as the general method of making the liquor into a ſyrup, the reſt of the deſcriptions of them will be eaſy. They are to be made in this manner: For ſyrup of cloves, weigh three pounds of clove-july-flowers from the huſks, and with the white heels cut off: Pour upon them five pints of boiling water. Let them ſtand all night, and in the morning pour off the clear liquor, and make it into a ſyrup as directed above: In the ſame manner are to be made the ſyrups of violets and red poppies: But leſs of the violet-flowers will do, and more of the poppies may be added: Thus alſo are to be made, the ſyrups of damaſk-roſes, peach-bloſſoms, cowſlip-flowers, and many others which will be recommended for that purpoſe in this book.

Syrup of buckthorn, is to be made by boiling the juice down to half its quantity, with a little cinnamon, ginger, and nutmeg, and then adding the ſugar.

The ſyrups of lemon-juice, mulberries, and the like, are to be made with a pound and a half of ſugar to every pint of the clear juice, which is to be melted as in the former manner.

Syrup of garlic, leeks, orange-peel, lemon-peel, mint, and many other things, are to be made of ſtrong infuſions of thoſe ingredients, made as before directed, with the firſt-mentioned quantity of ſugar added to them, when they have ſtood to ſettle.

Syrup of marſhmallows, and of poppy-heads, and ſome others, are to be made in the ſame manner with the ſtrongeſt decoctions that can poſſibly be made

from thoſe ingredients, with the ſame quantity of ſugar, as is firſt mentioned.

Syrup of balſam, is made by boiling a quarter of a pound of balſam of Tolu, in a pint and a half of water in a cloſe veſſel, and then making the water into a ſyrup, with the uſual quantity of ſugar: And thus may be made ſyrups of any of the balſams.

Syrup of ſaffron, is made of a ſtrong tincture of ſaffron in wine. An ounce of ſaffron being put to a pint of mountain, and this when ſtrained off, is to be made into a ſyrup, with the uſual quantity of ſugar.

At one time it was a cuſtom to keep a quantity of ſyrups of a particular kind under the name of *honeys*. They were made with honey inſtead of ſugar, and ſome of them, which had vinegar in the compoſition, were called *oxymels*. A few of the firſt kind, and very few, are worth keeping, and two or three of the latter, for they have very particular virtues. The way of making them is much the ſame with that of making ſyrups, but to be exact, it may be proper juſt to give ſome inſtance of it.

Honey of roſes is the moſt uſeful, and it is to be made of an infuſion of the flowers and honey in this manner: Cut the white heels from ſome red roſe-buds, and lay them to dry in a place where there is a draught of air; when they are dried, put half a pound of them into a ſtone-jar, and pour on them three pints of boiling water; ſtir them well, and let them ſtand twelve hours; then preſs off the liquor, and when it has ſettled, add to it five pounds of honey, boil it well, and when it is of the conſiſtence of a thick ſyrup, put it by for uſe. It is good againſt ſore mouths, and on many other occaſions. In the ſame manner may be made the honey of any flower; or with the juice of any plant, thus mixed with honey and boiled down, may be made what is called the honey of that plant. As to the oxymels, they are alſo made in a very uniform manner. The

following are ſo uſeful, that it will be proper always to keep them in readineſs.

For oxymel of garlic, put half a pint of vinegar into an earthen-pipkin, boil in it a quarter of an ounce of caraway-ſeeds, and the ſame quantity of ſweet fennel-ſeeds, at laſt add an ounce and a half of freſh garlic-root ſliced thin; let it boil a minute or two longer, then cover it up to ſtand till cold, then preſs out the liquor, and add ten ounces of honey, and boil it to a conſiſtence.

For vinegar of ſquills, put into a pint of vinegar three ounces of dried ſquills, let it ſtand two days in a gentle heat, then preſs out the vinegar, and when it has ſtood to ſettle, add a pound and a half of honey, and boil it to a conſiſtence. Both theſe are excellent in aſthmas.

To theſe alſo ſhould be added, the common ſimple oxymel, which is made of a pint of vinegar, and two pounds of honey boiled together to the conſiſtence of a ſyrup.

Finally, as to ointments, nothing can be ſo eaſy as the making them of the common herbs, and the expence is only ſo much hogs-lard. The lard is to be melted, and the freſh-gathered leaves of the herb are to be chopped to pieces, and thrown into it: They are to be boiled till the leaves begin to feel criſp, and then the lard is to be ſtrained off. It will be green, and will have the virtues of the herb, and muſt be called ointment of ſuch an herb. To theſe I ſhall take the opportunity of adding the way of making two or three more, which, though not the produce of Engliſh herbs, are very uſeful, and our charitable ſhop ſhould not be without them.

1. The white-wine ointment, called *unguentum*. This is made by melting together four ounces of white wax, and three ounces of ſpermaceti, in a pint of ſalad-oil, and adding, if it be deſired, three ounces of ceneſs, and a dram and half of camphire: But it is better for all common purpoſes without theſe.

2. Yellow baſilicon, which is made by melting together yellow wax, reſin, and Burgundy-pitch, of each half a pound, in a pint of wine of oil of olives, and adding three ounces of turpentine.

3. Black baſilicon, which is made by melting together in a pint of olive-oil, yellow wax, reſin, and pitch, of each nine ounces.

4. The mercurial ointment, which is thus made: Rub together in an iron-mortar, a pound of quick-ſilver, and an ounce of turpentine, when they are well mixed, add four pounds of hogs-lard melted, and mix all thoroughly together. The ointment of tutty is prepared with levigated tutty, and as much vipers-fat as will make it into a ſoft ointment; theſe are only to be mixed together upon a marble, by working them with a thin knife. This is for diſorders of the eyes, the foregoing for the itch, and many other complaints, but it muſt be uſed cautiouſly. And thoſe which were before named for old ſores.

Of the ſame nature with the ointments, are, in ſome degree, the oils made by infuſion of herbs and flowers in common oil. Theſe are alſo very eaſily prepared, and an inſtance or two will ſerve to explain the making of them all. The moſt regarded among theſe, is the oil of St. John's-wort, and that is thus made; pick clean a quarter of a pound of the flowers of common St. John's-wort, pour upon them a quart of olive-oil, and let them ſtand together till the oil is of a reddiſh colour. Oil of elder is made of a pound of elder-flowers, which are to be put into a quart of olive-oil, and boiled till they are criſp, and the oil is to be then ſtrained off.

3. What is called the *green oil*, is thus made: Bruiſe in a marble-mortar, three ounces of green camomile, with the ſame quantity of bay-leaves, ſea-wormwood, rue, and ſweet-marjoram; then boil them in a quart of oil of olives, till they are a little criſp. The oil is then to be poured off, and when cold put up for uſe.

Theſe oils are uſed to rub the limbs when there is pain and ſwellings; their virtues will be found at large, under the ſeveral herbs which are the principal ingredients: And after one or other of theſe methods, may be made the oil by infuſion, or by boiling of any plant, or of any number of plants of like virtue.

Laſtly, though herbs are now left out of the compoſition of plaiſters, even the melilot being now made without the herb from which it was firſt named: It may be proper to add the way of preparing a few that are moſt uſeful, and ought to be kept in families.

1. The common plaiſter is thus made: Boil together a gallon of oil, five pounds of powdered-litharge, and a quart and four ounces of water. When the water is boiled away, the reſt will be united into a plaiſter, but it muſt be ſtirred all the time: This uſed to be called *diachylon*. To make diachylon with the gums, add to a pound of the laſt deſcribed, two ounces of the galbanum, and an ounce of common turpentine, and the ſame quantity of frankincenſe. Melt them all together, the gums firſt, and then add the plaiſter.

2. For a ſtrengthening-plaiſter, melt two pounds of the common plaiſter, and add to it half a pound of frankincenſe, and three ounces of dragons-blood.

3. For a drawing plaiſter, melt together yellow wax, and yellow reſin, of each three pounds, and a pound of mutton-ſuet. This is uſed inſtead of the old melilot-plaiſter to dreſs bliſters; and the bliſter-plaiſter itſelf is made of it, only by adding half a pint of vinegar, and a pound of Spaniſh-flies in powder, to two pounds of it, juſt as it begins to cool from melting. The quickſilver-plaiſter is thus made: Rub three ounces of quickſilver, with a dram of balſam of ſulphur, till it no longer appear in globules, then pour in a pound of the common plaiſter melted, and mix them well together.

To close this chapter, I shall add a few waters made without distillation, which are very cheap and very serviceable, and the family-shop will then be quite complete.

1. Lime-water. This is made by pouring gradually six quarts of water upon a pound of quick lime; when it has stood to be clear, it must be poured off. If a pound of lignum-vitæ wood, an ounce of liquorice-root, and half an ounce of sassafras-bark be added to three quarts of lime-water, it is called *compound lime-water*; and is excellent in foulnesses of the blood.

2. The blue eye-water. This is made by putting a dram of sal-ammoniac into a pint of lime-water, and letting it stand in a brass vessel, till it is of a sky-blue colour.

3. Alum-water is made by boiling half an ounce of white vitriol, and the same quantity of alum in a quart of water, till they are dissolved.

Thus have we described all the drugs and compositions that need be kept in the charitable shop of the family, which intends to relieve a neighbourhood of poor in their greatest of all distresses, that of sickness. The diseases for which these remedies are to be used, will be found enumerated at large under the several heads of the principle ingredients, as described in the succeeding pages. It only remains to say a few words about the manner of putting these things most conveniently together, and we then shall have prepared for all that follows.

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER MEDICAL LIBRARY

CHAP. V.

Concerning the beſt Methods of putting Medicines together for preſent taking.

IN the firſt place, although theſe ſeveral forms of ſyrups, conſerves, and the like, have been named, as what will be ſometimes neceſſary. The great practice in the country will lie in the infuſions and decoctions of the freſh plants and roots.

The ſtrength of theſe infuſions and decoctions, is to be proportioned to the taſte: For as they are made to be ſwallowed in quantities, if they be made ſo ſtrong as to be very diſagreeable, that end will be defeated: They may be rendered more pleaſant by ſweetening them with ſugar, about an ounce of which is to be allowed to a quart; and occaſionally a little white-wine, or a ſmall quantity of ſome of the cordial-waters may be added to them. The doſe of either decoction or infuſion, will be in general about half a pint, except where they are intended to purge or vomit; there they muſt be more carefully and exactly proportioned to the ſtrength, than can be told in this general manner.

Of the ſimple waters, about a quarter of a pint is a doſe, and of the cordial waters, leſs than half that quantity. Theſe may be occaſionally given alone; but they are moſtly intended for mixing with other ingredients.

The tinctures are to be given in drops, from ten to an hundred, according to their ſtrength and nature: But to name a general doſe, it is about five and twenty drops. Theſe, however, will be alſo more ſerviceable in mixtures, than ſingly. Of the purging tinctures in wine, and the elixir ſalutus, three, four, or more ſpoonfuls is the doſe.

It would be well to keep tinctures of many of the roots recommended in nervous caſes, as cordials,

aſtringents, and of many other kinds; and alſo to keep powders of theſe roots in readineſs: And thus the common forms of medicines, as ſent from apothecaries, will be very eaſy.

For a julep, ſix ounces of one of the ſimple waters, two ounces of one of the compound-waters, or thoſe made with ſpirit, two drams of a ſyrup, and fifty drops of a tincture, make a very agreeable one. Thus for an hyſteric julep, let the ſimple water be pennyroyal, the ſyrup that of ſaffron, and the tincture of caſtor, and it is a very pleaſant julep; and ſo of all the reſt. If a pearl-cordial be deſired, it is only mixing the ſimple and ſtrong waters without ſyrup or tincture, and adding two drams of ſugar, and half a dram of levigated oyſter-ſhells. The apothecaries will not be pleaſed with this diſcloſing the myſteries of their profeſſion, but the public good is of more conſequence than his pleaſure.

Draughts are only little juleps, with more powerful ingredients added to them. An ounce and a half of a ſimple water, three drams of a ſtrong water, one dram of a ſyrup, and forty drops of a tincture, makes a draught; but to theſe may be added a ſimple of ſome power to increaſe the virtue. What waters, tinctures, ſyrups, or powders ſhall be uſed, will be determined from the caſe itſelf.

Boluſes are made with theſe powders in a certain doſe. A ſcruple or half a dram, is made into a ſort of paſte with ſyrup. The cuſtom is to cover it with a little leaf-gold, but this is better let alone: Some uſe leaf-braſs which is abominable.

Electuaries are to be made of powders, conſerves, and ſyrups, they differ from boluſes in this, as well as in the ſize, that the doſe is ſmaller, although the piece taken be as large; which is owing to the conſerve, that having in general little virtue in compariſon of the other ingredients. This is the form moſt convenient for medicines that are to be taken for a

continuance of time, and the doſe of which needs not be ſo very punctually regarded.

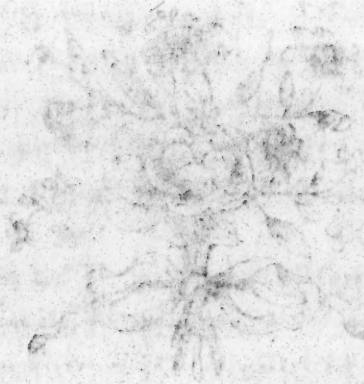
Thus for an electuary againſt an habitual looſeneſs, when it exceeds the proper bounds; mix together an ounce of conſerve of red roſes, and ſix drams of ſyrup of cloves, add to theſe two drams of powdered biſtort-root, one dram of powdered tormentill, and half a dram of toaſted rhubarb. This makes an electuary, a piece of which, of the bigneſs of a nutmeg, taken once in two days, will check the abundance of ſtools, without ſtopping the cuſtomary looſeneſs entirely: It will alſo be a pleaſant medicine. If a draught of tincture of roſes, which will be deſcribed in the following part of this work, under the article *red-roſe*, be taken after this, it will increaſe the power.

In this manner the charitable lady may ſupply the place of the apothecary, to thoſe who could not afford ſuch aſſiſtance: And experience is ſo good a guide, that ſhe will be able in moſt caſes to ſave the expence of the doctor alſo: And there will be this ſatisfaction in her own mind, that while ſhe deals principally with thoſe innocent ſort of medicines which the fields afford her, ſhe will be in very little danger of doing harm. The Galenical phyſic perhaps will be found effectual in many more caſes, by thoſe who ſtick to it ſolely, than they are aware who do not uſe it; as to the miſchief of medicine, that is almoſt entirely chemical. It would be idle to ſay, that chemical medicines do not do great good; but they require to be in ſkilful hands: When the ignorant employ them, death is more likely to be the conſequence, than the relief from the diſorder any other way.

One uſeful obſervation may ſerve well to cloſe this introduction. Opiates, and medicines of that kind, to compoſe perſons to reſt, and to take off pain, will be often neceſſary; but as they are the moſt powerful medicines the charitable practitioner will have

to do withal, they are the moſt capable of doing harm: The great care will therefore lie in the right uſe of theſe.

As there are three different preparations deſcribed in this book for anſwering this purpoſe, beſide the opium, and that ſolution of it in wine, which is called *laudanum*, I would adviſe that theſe two latter be uſed very ſeldom. A ſyrup made of the juice of the wild lettuce, is an excellent medicine; the ſyrup of diacodium, which is made of a ſtrong decoction of poppy-heads, is a little ſtronger than this; and if ſomething more powerful than theſe is required, there is the aſthmatic elixir. One or other of theſe may almoſt on every occaſion ſerve the purpoſe; and it is almoſt impoſſible that the uſe of them ſhould be attended with danger. I would therefore adviſe that opium or laudanum be very rarely uſed: Perhaps it might be well to ſay, not uſed at all, for the others will be able, in almoſt all caſes, if not univerſally, to anſwer the purpoſe.



THE

Uſeful Family-Herbal.

A.

Acacia Tree. *Acacia vera ſive Spina Ægyptiaca.*

THE acacia is a large but not tall tree, with prickly branches: The leaves are winged, or compoſed of ſeveral ſmall ones ſet on each ſide a middle rib; and the flowers are yellow. The trunk is thick, and the top ſpreading.

The leaves are of a bluiſh green, and the flowers reſemble in ſhape pea-bloſſoms; many of them ſtand together. Theſe are ſucceeded by long and flatted pods. The ſeeds contained in each are from four to ſeven, and the pod between them is very ſmall and narrow; the breadth is where they lie.

The tree is frequent in Ægypt, and there are a great many other kinds of it. No part of the acacia-tree is kept in the ſhops, but we have from it two drugs.

1. The acacia juice; and, 2. The gum Arabic.

The acacia juice, or ſuccus acaciæ, is like liquorice-juice, hard and black. They bruiſe the unripe pods and ſeeds, and preſs out the juice which they evaporate to this conſiſtence. The gum Arabic ouzes out of the bark of the trunk and branches, as the plum-tree and cherry-tree gum do with us.

The acacia juice is an aſtringent but little uſed. The gum Arabic is good in ſtranguries, and in coughs from a thin ſharp rheum; it is to be given in ſolution,

an ounce boiled in a quart of barley-water, or in powder in electuaries or otherwiſe.

What is called the *German-acacia* is the juice of unripe ſloes evaporated in the ſame manner.

Aconite. *Anthora ſive Aconitum Salutiferum.*

There are many poiſonous aconites, not uſed; but there is one medicinal, and kept in the ſhops: This is called the *wholeſome aconite* and *antithora*.

It is a ſmall plant, a foot high, with pale green divided leaves, and yellow flowers. It grows erect, and the ſtalk is firm, angular, and hairy; the leaves do not ſtand in pairs. The flowers are large and hooded, and of a pleaſant ſmell; the ſeed-veſſels are membranaceous, and the ſeeds black; the root is tuberous; it ſometimes conſiſts of one lump or knob, ſometimes of more. It is a native of Germany, but we have it in gardens. The root is the only part uſed; it is ſuppoſed to be a remedy againſt poiſons, but it is not much regarded at this time.

Adder's-Tongue. *Ophioglossum.*

Adder's-tongue is a little plant common in our meadows. It conſiſts of a ſingle leaf, with a little ſpike of ſeeds riſing from its bottom, which is ſuppoſed to reſemble the tongue of a ſerpent.

The leaf is of an oval ſhape, and of a fine bright green colour; it is thick and fleſhy, and has no ribs or veins. The ſtalk on which it ſtands riſes from a root compoſed of ſmall fibres, and is four inches or more high. The ſpike riſes to about the ſame height above it: And the tongue, or ſeed-veſſel, is notched on each ſide. The whole plant is buried among the graſs, and muſt be ſought in April and May, for it dies off ſoon after; and nothing is ſeen of it till the next ſeaſon.

It is a fine cooling herb, and an excellent oint-

Adders Tongue



Avens *or* Herb Bennet



Black Bryonie



Brook lime

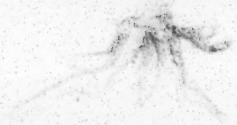


Common Cinquefoile



Doves foot *or* Cranes bill





ment is made from it. The leaves are to be chopped to pieces, and four pounds of them are to be put into three pounds of ſuet, and one pint of oil melted together. The whole is to be boiled till the herb is a little criſp, and then the ointment is to be ſtrained off; it will be of a beautiful green. Some give the juice of the plant, or the powder of the dried leaves, inwardly in wounds; but this is trifling.

Agrimony. *Agrimonia.*

A common Engliſh plant: It flowers in the midſt of ſummer. It grows to a foot or more in height, the leaves are winged, and the flowers are yellow. The root it perennial, the leaves are hairy, of a pale green, and notched at the edges; the ſtalk is ſingle, firm, and round; the flowers ſtand in a long ſpike, they are ſmall and numerous, and the ſeed-veſſels which ſucceed them are rough like burs. The plant is common about hedges.

The leaves are uſed freſh or dried; they have been recommended in the jaundice; but they are found by experience to be good in the diabetes and incontinence of urine. The plant is alſo one of the famous vulnerary herbs, and an ingredient in the right arquebuſade-water.

Black Alder. *Alnus Nigra. Frangula.*

The black alder is a little ſhrub: The ſhoots are brittle, ſlender, and covered with a brown bark; the leaves are roundiſh, of a bright green, and veined; they terminate in a point. The berries are large and black, they are ripe in autumn; the flowers which precede theſe are ſmall and inconſiderable, they are whitiſh, and ſtand on ſhort ſtalks.

The ſhrub is frequent in moiſt woods, and the berries are ſometimes mixed among thoſe of the

buckthorn by ſuch as gather them for ſale, but this ſhould be prevented.

No part of the black alder is uſed in medicine except the inner rind; this is yellow; and is a good purge; the beſt way to give it is in a decoction. Boil an ounce of it in a quart of water, and throw in at leaſt two drams of ginger and ſome caraway-ſeeds; let the patient proportion the quantity to his ſtrength: It is excellent in the jaundice. In Yorkſhire they bruiſe the bark with vinegar, and uſe it outwardly for the itch, which it cures very ſafely.

ALEHOOF, *or* GROUND-IVY. *Hedera Terreſtris.*

A LOW plant that creeps about hedges, and flowers in ſpring. The ſtalks are hollow and ſquare, a foot or more in length; the leaves are roundiſh, and notched at the edges: In ſpring they are uſually of a purpliſh colour, and the flowers are blue; the leaves ſtand two at each joint, and the roots are fibrous. The whole plant has a peculiar and ſtrong ſmell; it ſhould be gathered when in flower.

It is an excellent vulnerary, outwardly or inwardly uſed; a conſerve may be made of it in ſpring: And it may be given by way of tea. It is excellent in all diſorders of the breaſt and lungs, and in thoſe of the kidneys, and againſt bloody and foul urine.

ALLHEAL, *or* CLOWN'S ALLHEAL. *Panax Coloni.*

A COMMON herb in our wet grounds with long hairy leaves, and little red flowers. It grows to a foot and a half high, but the ſtalk is weak, ſquare, and hairy: The leaves ſtand two at a joint, and are of a pale green, notched at the edges, and of a ſtrong ſmell; the flowers ſtand in cluſters round the ſtalk at the joints. They are like thoſe of the dead-nettle kind, but ſmaller; the root is perennial and creeps.

It is an excellent wound herb, but muſt be uſed

freſh. The leaves are to be bruiſed, and laid upon a new-made wound, without any addition; they ſtop the bleeding, and cure.

Almond-Tree. *Amygdalus.*

Bitter and ſweet almonds are very different in taſte, but the tree which produces them is the ſame; it is diſtinguiſhable at leaſt only by the taſte of the almond.

It is a moderately large tree, with long narrow leaves, of a beautiful green, and notched at the edges; the bloſſoms are large, of a pale red colour, and very beautiful. The fruit is compoſed of three parts, a tough matter on the outſide, a ſtone within that, and in this ſhell the almond by way of kernel. They cultivate almond-trees in France and Italy.

Sweet almonds are excellent in emulſions, for ſtranguries, and all diſorders of the kidneys and bladder; they ought to be blanched, and beat up with barley-water into a liquor like milk; this is alſo good in ſmaller quantities for people in conſumptions and hectics.

Bitter almonds are uſed for their oil; this taſtes ſweet, and what is called *oil of ſweet almonds*, is commonly made of them. But the cakes left after preſſing, afford by diſtillation a water that is poiſonous, in the ſame manner as laurel-water.

The Aloe-Plant. *Aloe.*

There are a great many kinds of the aloe preſerved in our green-houſes and ſtoves. They are all natives of warmer climates, but of theſe there are only two that need be mentioned here, as the aloe kept by apothecaries, though of three kinds, is the produce of only two ſpecies. Theſe two are the ſuccotrine aloe-plant, and the common aloe.

The ſuccotrine aloe is a very beautiful plant; the

leaves are like thoſe of the pine-apple, eighteen or twenty inches long, prickly at the ſides, and armed with a large thorn at the end. The ſtalk is half a yard high, or more, naked at the bottom, but ornamented at top with a long ſpike of flowers; theſe are of a long ſhape and hollow, and of a beautiful red colour.

The ſuccotrine, or fineſt aloes, is produced from this plant; the leaves are preſſed gently, and the juice received in earthen-veſſels: It is ſet to ſettle, and then dried in the ſun.

The common aloe is a very fine plant; the leaves are above two feet long, and an inch thick; they are dented at the edges and prickly, and have a very ſharp thorn at the point. The ſtalk, when it flowers, is five or ſix feet high, and divided into ſeveral branches; the flowers are yellow, ſtreaked with green.

From the juice of the leaves of this plant are made the hepatic and the caballine aloes; the hepatic is made from the clearer and finer part of the juice, the caballine from the coarſe ſediment.

The ſuccotrine aloes is the only kind that ſhould be given inwardly; this may be known from the others, by not having their offenſive ſmell. It is a moſt excellent purge, but it muſt not be given to women with child, nor to thoſe who ſpit blood, for it may be fatal. The beſt way of giving it is in the tincture of hiera-picra.

Aloes-Wood. *Lignum Aloes.*

It may be neceſſary to mention this wood, as it is ſometimes uſed in medicine, although we are not acquainted with the tree which affords it. We are told that the leaves are ſmall, the flowers moderately large, and the fruit as big as a pigeon's egg, and woolly; and we read alſo, that the juice of the tree, while freſh, will raiſe bliſters on the ſkin, and even

cauſe blindneſs: But theſe accounts are very imperfect.

We ſee three kinds of the wood in the ſhops, and they are diſtinguiſhed by three different names, *calambac*, *common lignum aloes*, and *calambour*; of theſe the calambac is the fineſt and the moſt reſinous, the calambour is almoſt a mere chip, the other is of a middle value between them. They are all of the ſame virtue, but in different degrees. They are ſaid to be cordial and ſtrengthening to the ſtomach, but we uſe them very little.

True Amomum. *Amomum verum Racemoſum.*

Amomum is another of thoſe drugs we receive from abroad, and do not know the plants which produce them. The fruit itſelf, which is called *amomum*, is like the leſſer cardamom, but that it is round; it conſiſts of ſkinny huſk and ſeeds within, and is whitiſh, and of the bigneſs of a horſe-bean. Several of theſe ſometimes are found growing together to one ſtalk in a cloſe body.

The old phyſicians uſed it as a cordial and carminative, but at preſent it is much neglected.

Common Amomum. *Amomum Vulgare.*

Though the amomum before-mentioned be not uſed in preſcription, it is an ingredient in ſome old compoſitions; and, being often not to be met with, it has been found neceſſary to ſubſtitute another carminative-ſeed in its place; this grows on an Engliſh plant, thence called alſo *amomum*.

The common amomum, otherwiſe called *baſtard ſtone-parſley;* is frequent about our hedges; it grows to three feet in height, but the ſtalk is ſlender, and divided into a great many branches. The leaves are of a bright green and winged, or compoſed of double

rows of ſmaller, with an odd one at the end. There grow ſome large and very beautiful ones from the root; thoſe on the ſtalks are ſmaller. The flowers grow in little umbels, or cluſters, at the extremities of all the branches. They are ſmall and white. Two ſeeds follow each flower, and theſe are ſtriated, ſmall, and of a ſpicy taſte; the plant is diſtinguiſhed at ſight from all the others of its kind, of which there are many, by the ſlenderneſs of its ſtalks and branches, and the ſmallneſs of the umbels; and more than all by the peculiar taſte of the ſeeds, which have a flavour of mace.

It is proper to be particular, becauſe the plant is worth knowing. Its root is good for all diſeaſes of the urinary paſſages, and the ſeeds are good in diſorders of the ſtomach and bowels, and alſo operate by urine. The quantity of a ſcruple given in cholics often proves an immediate cure, and they are a good ingredient in bitters.

ALKANET. *Anchuſa.*

ALKANET is a rough plant of no great beauty, cultivated in France and Germany for the ſake of its root. It grows to a foot and a half high: The leaves are large and of a rough irregular ſurface, and bluiſh green colour; the flowers are ſmall and purpliſh; the root is long and of a deep purple. It is kept dried in the ſhops. It has the credit of an aſtringent and vulnerary, but it is little uſed. The beſt way of giving of it is, to add half an ounce to a quart of hartſhorn-drink; it gives a good colour, and increaſes the virtue.

ANGELICA. *Angelica.*

A LARGE and beautiful plant kept in our gardens, and found wild in ſome parts of the kingdom. It

grows to eight feet in height, and the ſtalks robuſt, and divided into branches. The leaves are large, and compoſed each of many ſmaller, ſet upon a divided pedicle; they are notched at the edges, and of a bright green. The flowers are ſmall, but they ſtand in vaſt cluſters of a globoſe form: Two ſeeds follow each flower.

Every part of the plant is fragrant when bruiſed, and every part of it is uſed in medicine. The root is long and large; we uſe that of our own growth freſh, but the fine fragrant dried roots are brought from Spain. The whole plant poſſeſſes the ſame virtues, and is cordial and ſudorific; it has been always famous againſt peſtilential and contagious diſeaſes. The root, the ſtalks candied, the ſeeds bruiſed, or the water diſtilled from the leaves, may be uſed, but the ſeeds are the moſt powerful. It is alſo an ingredient in many compoſitions.

Anise. *Aniſum.*

The aniſeed uſed in the ſhops is produced by a ſmall plant cultivated in fields for that purpoſe in the iſland of Malta and elſewhere. It grows to half a yard high, the ſtalks are firm, ſtriated, and branched; the leaves which grow near the ground are rounded and divided only into three parts; thoſe on the ſtalks are cut into ſlender diviſions. The flowers are ſmall, but they grow in large umbels, at the top of the branches, and two ſeeds follow each; theſe are the aniſeed.

As much bruiſed aniſeed as will lie on a ſixpence is excellent in cholics. It is alſo good in indigeſtions, and other complaints of the ſtomach.

Apples of Love. *Poma Amoris.*

These are large juicy fruits, but they are produced not on a tree, but on a ſmall and low plant. The ſtalks are weak, and divided into many branches;

the leaves are large, but they are compoſed of many ſmall ones ſet on a divided ſtalk, and they are of a faint yellowiſh green colour. The flowers are ſmall and yellow, the fruit is large, and when ripe of a red colour; it contains a ſoft juicy pulp and the ſeeds.

The plant is a kind of nightſhade, we cultivate it in gardens. The Italians eat the fruit as we do cucumbers. The juice is cooling, and is good externally uſed in eruptions on the ſkin, and in diſeaſes of the eyes, where a ſharp humour is troubleſome.

ARCHANGEL. *Lamium album.*

A COMMON wild plant, more vulgarly called the *dead-nettle.* It grows about hedges, it is a foot high, and has leaves ſhaped like thoſe of the nettle, but they do not ſting. The ſtalk is ſquare, and the leaves are hairy; the flowers are large and white, they ſtand at the joints where the leaves are ſet on, and are very pretty. The leaves ſtand in pairs, and the root creeps under the ſurface.

The flowers are the only part uſed; they are to be gathered in May, and made into conſerve. A pound of them is to be beat up with two pounds and a half of ſugar. They may alſo be dried. They are excellent in the whites, and all other weakneſſes.

There is a little plant with red flowers called alſo the *red archangel*, or *red dead-nettle.* It is common under the hedges, and in gardens; the ſtalks are ſquare and weak, the leaves are ſhort, and notched at the edges, and the flowers ſmall and red; the plant is not above four or five inches high, and theſe flowers grow near the tops among the leaves. They are in ſhape like thoſe of the white archangel, but ſmall.

The herb is uſed freſh or dried, and the flowers. The decoction is good for floodings, bleedings at the noſe, ſpitting of blood, or any kind of hemorrhage. It alſo ſtops blood, bruiſed and applied outwardly.

ARRACH, *or* STINKING ARRACH. *Atriplex Olida.*

A SMALL wild plant that grows about farm-yards, and in waſte grounds. The ſtalks are a foot long, but weak: they ſeldom ſtand upright, they are ſtriated, and of a pale green. The leaves are ſmall, ſhort, and rounded, of a bluiſh green colour, and of breadth of a ſhilling, or leſs. The flowers are inconſiderable, and the ſeeds ſmall, but they ſtand in cluſters at the tops of the branches, and have a greeniſh-white appearance. The whole plant is covered with a ſort of moiſt duſt in large particles, and has a moſt unpleaſant ſmell. It is to be uſed freſh gathered, for it loſes its virtue in drying. A ſyrup may be made of a pint of its juice and two pounds of ſugar, and will keep all the year. The leaves alſo may be beat into a conſerve, with three times their weight of ſugar: In any of theſe forms it is an excellent medicine in all hyſteric complaints, It cures fits, and promotes the menſes, and the neceſſary evacuations after delivery.

There is another kind of arrach alſo mentioned by medical writers, and called *garden arrach;* it is an annual raiſed from ſeed, for the uſe of the kitchen. It grows to a yard high, and the leaves are broad: Thoſe which grow from the root have a little leaf alſo on each ſide the baſe. They are covered with a wet duſt like the other kind. Theſe leaves are cooling and ſoftening, they are good in clyſters, but they are leſs uſed, and leſs valuable than the other.

ARON. *Arum.*

A VERY common plant under our hedges, and more vulgarly called *cuckowpint*, and, by the children, *lord and lady.* The root is of the bigneſs and ſhape of a walnut, brown on the outſide, and white within; and this, as well as the whole plant, is of a ſharp and

acrid taſte. This root lies deep. The leaves are large and ſhaped like the bearded head of an arrow, of a ſtrong green colour; and ſometimes ſpotted. In April and May riſe among theſe thick ſtalks ſupporting a very ſingular kind of flower; the pointal of which is long, thick, fleſhy, and of a red or white colour, and the whole ſurrounded with a green membranaceous caſe. Afterwards this caſe and the pointal fall off, and there remains only the ſtem ſupporting a quantity of berries, which are ripe in autumn, and are then of a fine red colour.

The root is the part uſed. It is an excellent medicine in palſies. Half one of the roots, freſh gathered and bruiſed, will ſometimes reſtore the ſpeech at once; and a continued uſe of them goes a great way towards a cure. It is alſo good in ſcorbutic caſes, and in all inward obſtructions. Some dry and powder it, but it then loſes almoſt all its virtue.

ARSESMART, *or* WATER-PEPPER. *Perſicaria Urens.*

A COMMON wild herb neglected, but of great virtues. It grows every where about ditches, and in watery places. It is a foot and a half high; the ſtalks are weak, green or reddiſh, and jointed. The leaves are long and narrow like thoſe of the peach-tree, of a bright green, not ſpotted, and even at the edges. The flowers ſtand at the tops of the ſtalks in ſlender ſpikes of a greeniſh white. As there are ſeveral other kinds of arſeſmart, and moſt of them different from this in their nature and qualities, great care is to be taken to gather the right. It muſt have no ſpot upon the middle of the leaf. There is another common kind of arſeſmart with ſuch a ſpot, and with thicker ſtalks and thick ſpikes of reddiſh flowers, which has none of its virtue.

The right arſeſmart is an excellent medicine in obſtructions of urine, in the gravel and ſtone: And in the jaundice and beginning dropſies it has done great

cures. The juice of the freſh-gathered plant is the beſt way of giving it. Outwardly it is good to cleanſe old ulcers.

ARTICHOKE. *Cinara.*

THE root of the common artichoke or hartichoke, cultivated for our tables, is an excellent medicine. The plant itſelf is of the thiſtle-kind, and its head which we ſee at table, owes much of its bigneſs and fleſhineſs to culture. The leaves are large, and divided into many parts, and often they are prickly. The ſtem is robuſt and ſtriated, and the head is formed of large ſcales; the flowers are of the thiſtle-kind, and the ſeeds are, as in the thiſtles, winged with down.

The root, freſh gathered, ſliced, and boiled in water, ſix ounces to a quart of the water, make a decoction, which works by urine, and I have known it alone cure a jaundice.

ASARABACCA. *Aſarum.*

A VERY little and low plant found wild in many parts of Europe, and common in our gardens. The roots creep about the ſurface of the ground, the leaves grow ſingly from them, and there is no ſtem or ſtalk. Each leaf has its ſeparate foot-ſtalk three or four inches long, and the leaf itſelf is roundiſh, of a dark green, and fleſhy; the flowers are ſmall, and of a duſky colour, and they ſtand near the ground.

The roots are the moſt valuable part; the juice of them may be given in ſmall doſes, or they may be dry and given in powder or infuſion. It works very powerfully by urine, and is good in obſtructions of the menſes, and in jaundices and dropſies.

The Ash. *Fraxinus.*

A common tree in our hedges and woods. The bark of the branches is grey, and the leaves are winged; the ſmall ones of which they are compoſed are oblong and dented. The flowers are of a whitiſh green, and come before the leaves: The ſeeds are what they call *aſh-keys*; theſe ripen in September.

The bark of the young branches is good in obſtructions of the liver and ſpleen, and therefore is of great ſervice in dropſies, jaundice, and other complaints of that origin. It works by urine; the ſeeds have the ſame virtue, but in a leſs degree.

The Manna Ash. *Fraxinus minore Folio.*

This is a lower tree than the common aſh, and is not a native of our kingdom, but is frequent in Italy, where the manna is gathered from its leaves and branches.

The bark of this tree is paler than that of our common aſh, and the leaves are compoſed of ſmaller and narrower parts, but the flower and fruit differ very little.

They have alſo in Calabria another low aſh-tree, which has the backs of the leaves ſmaller than ours, and flatter and more rounded, and from this alſo they collect manna for the uſe of the apothecaries. The manna is a ſweet or honey juice that naturally ſweats out of the bark and leaves in hot weather. The fineſt manna of all is that which ouzes out of the leaves; this is in ſmall pieces. It flows out of the ribs of the leaves in Auguſt in the heat of the day, and ſoon hardens into this form. They get the greateſt quantities of all by cutting the bark of the trunk and branches, and this is often large and flaky, but it is yellowiſh. That which is flaky, white, and hollow, has iſſued out of itſelf, and is much better.

Manna is a moſt excellent purge, very gentle, and without any after aſtringency. There is a kind of manna uſed in France, called the *Briancon manna*; this is produced by the larch-tree; and there is another kind more rare, called *Perſian manna*. This is produced by the ſhrub called *alhagi*, a kind of broom, or nearly allied to it. But theſe are ſcarce with us.

Asparagus. *Aſparagus Sativus.*

The aſparagus plant is one whoſe root is uſeful in medicine, although a different part of it be eaten at the table. Its virtues are not unlike thoſe of the artichoke-root, but greater.

The aſparagus is a wild plant in many parts of England about the ſea-coaſts, and its root, in this wild ſtate, is better than that of the cultivated plants, but its ſhoots have not that fine fleſhy fulneſs. The plant, when full grown, is three feet high, and very much branched, and the leaves are fine, and of a pale green; the flowers are ſmall and greeniſh, but the berries which ſucceed them are as big as peaſe, and red.

The root is a powerful diuretic, and is good in all obſtructions of the viſcera. It has been known ſingly to perform cures in jaundices and dropſies. It is beſt given in decoction.

Asphodel. *Aſphodelus verus Ramoſus Albus.*

An elegant garden-flower, a native of Italy, and preſerved with us more for its beauty than its uſe, tho' ſometimes taken as a medicine. It grows to three feet in height, and the ſtalk divides into three or four branches towards the top. The flowers are white, and they ſtand in ſpikes on the tops of theſe diviſions. They are ſtreaked with purple on the top, and have yellow threads in the middle. The leaves are long and narrow, hollowed and ſharp-pointed; the root is

compoſed of ſeveral oblong lumps. The root is the part uſed in medicine, and it is ſaid to be good againſt all obſtructions, particularly againſt thoſe of the menſes.

There is another kind of aſphodel with yellow flowers, the root of which is ſaid to poſſeſs the ſame virtues, but it is more rarely uſed than the other.

The Asafoetida Plant. *Aſafœtida Herba.*

This is a Perſian plant, and is a very tall and robuſt one. It grows to nine feet high, and the ſtalks are as thick as a child's leg; they are hollow, and divided toward the tops into ſeveral branches. The leaves are very large, and compoſed of many ſmaller, ſet upon a divided rib. They reſemble in ſome degree the leaves of the piony, The large ones riſe immediately from the root, and ſmaller of the ſame form ſtand at diſtances upon the ſtalks, one at each joint. The flowers are ſingly very ſmall, but they ſtand in vaſt cluſters, or umbels, at the tops of the ſtalks, and the ſeeds follow, two after each flower; they are large, broad, and ſtriated, and have the ſame ſmell with the gum, but not ſo ſtrong. The root is very long and thick; it is black on the outſide and white within, and is full of a thick juice of a ſtrong ſmell, which, when hardened, is aſafœtida, ſuch as we ſee.

No part of the plant is uſed, but only this gum, or hardened juice of the root. They cut off the top of the root, and let the juice that riſes from the wound dry. It becomes reddiſh on the outſide, and white within, and is the aſafœtida of the ſhops. An excellent medicine in all nervous diſorders; it may be given alone rolled up into pills, no way better.

Avens. *Carryophyllata.*

A common wild plant neglected, but worthy of our notice. It grows about hedges, and riſes to fourteen inches high; the ſtalk is firm and ſlender, and is divided into ſeveral branches. The leaves are large and rough, the ſtalk alſo is hairy. The leaves that grow from the root are winged; they conſiſt of three pair of ſmall ones, and one much larger at the end. Thoſe on the ſtalk are ſmaller, and conſiſt of fewer parts; but otherwiſe they are alike. The flowers are ſmall and yellow; they are ſucceeded by rough heads, as big as a horſe-bean, compoſed of many ſeeds with hooked filaments. The root is longiſh and large, of a firm ſubſtance, reddiſh colour, and very fragrant and ſpicy ſmell; it is better than many drugs kept in the ſhops.

It is a cordial and ſudorific. It is good in nervous complaints; and I have known it alone cure intermittent fevers, where the bark has been unſucceſsful.

B.

Balm. *Meliſſa.*

A Plant common in our gardens. It grows to two feet in height, and the ſtalks are robuſt, ſquare, and hairy. The leaves are oblong, broad, pointed at the end, and dentated about the edges, and they ſtand two at a joint; the flowers are ſmall and white, but they have large rough tops, which remain after they are fallen. They ſtand in circular cluſters round the ſtalk at the upper joints; the whole plant is of a

fragrant ſmell. The root creeps and ſpreads abundantly. The plant is in flower in July.

Freſh balm is much better than dry, for it loſes its fragrancy in drying. The beſt way of taking it is in tea: It is good for diſorders of the head and ſtomach.

THE BALM OF GILEAD SHRUB. *Balſamum Syriacum Rutæ Folio.*

THIS is an eaſtern ſhrub; it grows to five or ſix feet high, and the branches are very tough, and, when broken, have a fragrant ſmell. The leaves are like thoſe of rue, only larger, and of a deeper green; the flowers are moderately large, and like pea-bloſſoms; they are of a pale purpliſh hue mixed with white. The ſeeds are yellow and very fragrant; they are contained in a kind of pods.

No part of the ſhrub is uſed, but only the balſam which is obtained from it; the fineſt kind runs from the tree of itſelf: There is a ſecond ſort obtained by boiling the twigs and young ſhoots; and a third coarſer, which riſes to the top of the water, after the purer ſort has been taken off. This laſt is almoſt the only kind we ſee, and even this is very frequently adulterated.

It is a very fine balſamic and detergent; it is good in the whites, and all weakneſſes; and it is cordial at the ſame time that it acts as a balſam; it is beſt taken alone upon ſugar.

THE BALSAM CAPIVI-TREE. *Arbor Balſamifera Fructu Monoſpermo.*

THIS is a large tree. The wood is of a red colour, and fine grain; the bark is brown; the leaves are broad, ſhort, and pointed at the end, and are of a dark green on the upper-ſide, and a mealy white underneath. The flowers are as large as apple-bloſſoms,

and of a pale colour; the fruit is a pod containing only one ſeed, which is as big as a nut, and the kernel is ſweet, and of a good taſte.

The tree is frequent in the Braſils. We uſe no part of it, but only the balſam which runs out at the wounds they make in the trunk in ſummer; it is thin like oil. It has the ſame virtues with turpentine, but is more powerful; it is excellent in the whites, and it is good in all complaints of the urinary paſſages. It may be taken alone on ſugar.

The Balsam of Peru-Tree. *Abor Balſamifera Peruviana.*

This is a ſhrub of eight feet high, with ſlender and tough branches. The leaves are very long and narrow; the flowers are yellow and large, and the fruit is crooked. The whole plant has a fragrant ſmell, eſpecially the young ſhoots and the buds.

The balſam of Peru is procured from the fragrant tops of this ſhrub, by boiling them in water; the blackiſh liquor riſes like oil to the top, and, when cold, it is the balſam of Peru. There is a white balſam of Peru very fragrant and fine, but it is ſcarce. This is the produce of the ſame tree, but it ouzes naturally from the cracks in the bark.

The black balſam of Peru is a cordial as well as a balſam; it is excellent in diſorders of the breaſt, and in all obſtructions of the viſcera; ten drops at a time given on ſugar, and continued daily, have cured aſthmas and beginning conſumptions. It alſo promotes the menſes, and is excellent in ſuppreſſions of urine. Outwardly applied, it heals freſh wounds.

The Balsam of Tolu-Tree. *Arbor Balſamifera Tolutana.*

This is a kind of pine-tree. It does not grow to any great height, but ſpreads into a great quantity

of branches. The leaves are long and very ſlender, and of a deep green; the bark is of a reddiſh white, and the fruit is a ſmall cone brown and hard.

No part of the tree is uſed but the balſam only which comes from it. They wound the trunk in hot ſeaſons, and this liquid reſin flows out, which they put up into ſhells for exportation: It is thick, brown, and very fragrant. It is excellent in conſumptions, and other diſorders of the breaſt, and may be given in pills. The balſamic ſyrup of the apothecaries is made from it, and poſſeſſes a great deal of its virtues.

The Barberry-Bush. *Berberis.*

This is a wild buſh in ſome parts of England, but it is common every where in gardens; it grows to eight or ten feet high in an irregular manner, and much branched. The bark is whitiſh, and there are abundance of prickles about the branches. The leaves are of an oval figure, and ſtrong green colour, and are indented about the edges. The flowers are ſmall, and of a pale yellowiſh colour; the fruit is ſufficiently known; the berries are oblong, red, and of a ſour taſte. The branches are brittle, and, under the pale outer rind, there is another yellow and thicker. This is the part uſed in medicine; it is excellent in the jaundice, and has often cured it ſingly. It is alſo good in all obſtructions. The beſt way to give it is infuſed in boiling water.

Barley. *Hordeum.*

The barley uſed in medicine is the ſame with that of which bread is made, and which ſerves the brewer and diſtiller in their ſeveral capacities. It is known at ſight from wheat, when growing, for it is not ſo tall, and the leaves are ſmaller and narrower. A long beard grows from each grain in the ear, and the ear is compoſed of two rows of them.

We uſe this grain in two forms, the one called *French barley*, and the other *pearl barley*. The French barley is ſkinned, and has the ends ground off; the pearl barley is reduced by a longer grinding to a little round white lump. The pearl barley makes the finer and more elegant barley-water, but the French barley makes the beſt. It is excellent in heat of urine, and in all gravelly caſes, and is a good drink in moſt acute diſeaſes, where diluting is required: It is alſo in ſome degree nouriſhing.

BAREN-WORT. *Epidemium.*

A SINGULAR and very pretty plant, native of England, but not common. It grows in woods, and has beautiful purple and yellow flowers. It is a foot high. The leaves are oval and heart-faſhioned, deeply indented at the edges, and of a duſky green. The ſtalks which produce the flowers, are weak, brittle, and generally crooked; the flowers ſtand in a kind of very looſe ſpike, ten or a dozen upon the top; they are ſmall, but very ſingular and conſpicuous; they are purple on the back, with a red edge, and yellow in the middle. The root is fibrous and creeping.

It was an opinion with the old writers, that this plant produced no flowers; but the occaſion is eaſily known. When it ſtands expoſed to ſun, it ſeldom does flower; as we ſee in gardens, where it is planted in ſuch ſituations, for it will ſtand many years without flowering; but our woods favour it, being dark and damp: The old people ſaw it in warmer climates, and under an unfavourable expoſure. They called it from this circumſtance, as well as from its virtues, by a name, which expreſſed being barren and fruitleſs.

The people in the north give milk in which the roots have been boiled, to the females of the domeſtic animals when they are running after the males, and

they ſay it has the certain effect of ſtopping the natural emotions. Plain ſenſe leads theſe ſort of people to many things. They have from this been taught to give it to young women of robuſt habits ſubject to violent hyſteric complaints, and, I am aſſured, with great ſucceſs; they give the decoction of the root made ſtrong and ſweetened. It was a coarſe alluſion that led them to the practice, but it ſucceeds in caſes that foil all the parade of common practice. It is ſaid that, if they take it in too large quantity, it renders them ſtupid for ſome hours, but no ill conſequence has attended this.

The Bay-Tree. *Laurus.*

The bay is a native of Spain and Italy, where it grows to a large tree; we keep it in gardens, but it ſeldom riſes to more than the figure and height of a ſhrub with us. The wood is not ſtrong but ſpongy and friable; the leaves remain green all winter; the bark of the large branches is of a duſky brown, that of the twigs reddiſh, the leaves are long and ſomewhat broad, pointed at the end, and very fragrant. The flowers are very ſmall and inconſiderable; their colour is whitiſh; they appear in May, but are not regarded: The berries are ripe in the latter end of autumn, and are large and black, conſiſting of two parts within the ſame ſkin.

The berries are dried, and are the part of the tree moſtly uſed; but the leaves alſo have great virtue. The berries are given in powder or infuſion; they are good in obſtructions, and in cholics. They promote urine, and the evacuations after delivery. The leaves are cordial and good in all nervous complaints. Paralytic people would find great benefit from ſmall doſes of them often repeated; and four or five doſes have ſome times cured agues. They are to be put freſh into an oven, and, when they are criſp, reduced to powder.

Basil. *Ocymum vulgare Majus.*

Basil is a ſmall herb, native of warmer countries, but not uncommon in our gardens; it is buſhy and branched, the ſtalks are ſquare, and the leaves ſtand two at each joint. They are broad and ſhort, and ſomewhat indented at the edges. The flowers are ſmall and white, and are of the ſhape of thoſe of the dead-nettle; they ſtand on the upper parts of the branches in looſe ſpikes. The whole plant has a very fragrant ſmell.

Baſil is little uſed, but it deſerves to be much more. A tea made of the green plant is excellent againſt all obſtructions. No ſimple is more effectual for gently promoting the menſes, and for removing thoſe complaints which naturally attend their ſtoppage.

There are two or three other kinds of baſil, but they have not equal virtue.

The Bdellium-Tree. *Arbor Bdellium Ferens.*

We are very well acquainted with the gum, or rather gum reſin, called *bdellium*, but we know very little of the tree from which it is produced; the beſt deſcription we have of it, amounts to no more than it is moderately large, buſhy, and full of branches with prickles upon them, and with oblong and broad leaves deeply indented at the edges, ſo that they reſemble oak-leaves; and that, when the young ſhoots are broken, they yield a milky juice. But even this does not come upon certainty, that is, we are not aſſured, that this tree produces the very gum we ſee. This is of a red brown colour, and bitteriſh taſte.

It is a good medicine in obſtructions of the liver and ſpleen, but it is not much uſed.

The Bean. *Faba.*

The common garden-bean is ſufficiently known; it grows to a yard high, its ſtalks are angular, and the leaves, which are of the winged kind, ſtand one at each joint; the flowers are white, ſpotted with black, and are finely ſcented. The pods and their ſeeds need not be deſcribed.

It has been cuſtomary to diſtil a water from bean-flowers, and uſe it to ſoften the ſkin, but common diſtilled water does as well. It is otherwiſe with the water of the bean-pods. Theſe are to be bruiſed, when the beans are half ripe in them, and diſtilled with water in a common Alembic. The water is a very gentle carminative, without any heat or acridneſs: this is excellent for childrens' gripes.

The Malacca Bean-Tree. *Anacardium Legitimum.*

This is a large tree, native of Malabar and the Philippine iſlands; it grows to the height and bigneſs of our talleſt elms, and has much of their manner of growth, as to the branches. The leaves are vaſtly large, of an oblong figure, and obtuſe; the flowers are ſmall and white, they grow in bunches, and have ſomewhat of the ſmell of the ſyringa flower, but fainter. The fruit is of the bigneſs of a pear, and much of the ſame ſhape; it is of a deep red, when ripe, and of a pleaſant taſte; the kernel is not within this, as is commonly the caſe in fruits, but it hangs out looſe at the end. This kernel or ſeed is of the ſhape of an heart; it is as big as an olive, and has a duſky red coat or ſhell, but it is white within. This is the part uſed in medicine, for the whole fruit is not regarded. The anacardium, or kernel, is ſaid to be a cordial, and a ſtrengthener of the nerves, but we do not much uſe it. There is a very ſharp liquor between the outer and inner rinds of the ſhell,

which will take away freckles from the ſkin, but it is ſo ſharp that the ladies muſt be cautious how they uſe it.

The WEST-INDIA BEAN, *or* CASHEW NUT-TREE.

Arbor Acaju vulgo Cajou.

IT appears by the deſcription of the anacardium how very improperly it is called a *nut*, for it is the kernel of a large fruit, though growing in a ſingular manner. The caſe is juſt the ſame with reſpect to the caſhew-nut, for it is neither a nut nor a bean, any more than the other: But it is neceſſary to keep to the common names, and it is proper they ſhould be mentioned together.

The tree which produces it is large and ſpreading; the bark is of a pale colour, rough and cracked, and the wood is brittle. The leaves are half a foot long, and two or three inches broad, blunt at the end, and of a fine green colour. The flowers are ſmall, but they grow in tufts together. The fruit is of the bigneſs and ſhape of a pear, and of an orange and purple colour mixed together; the *caſhew-nut*, or *bean*, as it is called, hangs naked from the bottom of this fruit. It is of the bigneſs of a garden-bean, and indented in the manner of a kidney; it is of a greyiſh colour, and conſiſts of a ſhelly covering, and a fine white fleſhy ſubſtance within, as ſweet as an almond. Between the two coats of this ſhell, as between thoſe of the anacardium, there is a ſharp and cauſtic oil, which ſerves in the ſame manner as the other to take off freckles, but it muſt be uſed with great caution. It actually burns the ſkin, ſo that it muſt be ſuffered to lie on only a few moments; and, even when uſed ever ſo cautiouſly, it ſometimes cauſes miſchief.

The Bean. *Faba.*

The common garden-bean is ſufficiently known; it grows to a yard high, its ſtalks are angular, and the leaves, which are of the winged kind, ſtand one at each joint; the flowers are white, ſpotted with black, and are finely ſcented. The pods and their ſeeds need not be deſcribed.

It has been cuſtomary to diſtil a water from bean-flowers, and uſe it to ſoften the ſkin, but common diſtilled water does as well. It is otherwiſe with the water of the bean-pods. Theſe are to be bruiſed, when the beans are half ripe in them, and diſtilled with water in a common Alembic. The water is a very gentle carminative, without any heat or acridneſs: this is excellent for childrens' gripes.

The Malacca Bean-Tree. *Anacardium Legitimum.*

This is a large tree, native of Malabar and the Philippine iſlands; it grows to the height and bigneſs of our talleſt elms, and has much of their manner of growth, as to the branches. The leaves are vaſtly large, of an oblong figure, and obtuſe; the flowers are ſmall and white, they grow in bunches, and have ſomewhat of the ſmell of the ſyringa flower, but fainter. The fruit is of the bigneſs of a pear, and much of the ſame ſhape; it is of a deep red, when ripe, and of a pleaſant taſte; the kernel is not within this, as is commonly the caſe in fruits, but it hangs out looſe at the end. This kernel or ſeed is of the ſhape of an heart; it is as big as an olive, and has a duſky red coat or ſhell, but it is white within. This is the part uſed in medicine, for the whole fruit is not regarded. The anacardium, or kernel, is ſaid to be a cordial, and a ſtrengthener of the nerves, but we do not much uſe it. There is a very ſharp liquor between the outer and inner rinds of the ſhell,

which will take away freckles from the ſkin, but it is ſo ſharp that the ladies muſt be cautious how they uſe it.

The West-India Bean, *or* Cashew Nut-Tree.

Arbor Acaju vulgo Cajou.

It appears by the deſcription of the anacardium how very improperly it is called a *nut*, for it is the kernel of a large fruit, though growing in a ſingular manner. The caſe is juſt the ſame with reſpect to the caſhew-nut, for it is neither a nut nor a bean, any more than the other: But it is neceſſary to keep to the common names, and it is proper they ſhould be mentioned together.

The tree which produces it is large and ſpreading; the bark is of a pale colour, rough and cracked, and the wood is brittle. The leaves are half a foot long, and two or three inches broad, blunt at the end, and of a fine green colour. The flowers are ſmall, but they grow in tufts together. The fruit is of the bigneſs and ſhape of a pear, and of an orange and purple colour mixed together; the *caſhew-nut*, or *bean*, as it is called, hangs naked from the bottom of this fruit. It is of the bigneſs of a garden-bean, and indented in the manner of a kidney; it is of a greyiſh colour, and conſiſts of a ſhelly covering, and a fine white fleſhy ſubſtance within, as ſweet as an almond. Between the two coats of this ſhell, as between thoſe of the anacardium, there is a ſharp and cauſtic oil, which ſerves in the ſame manner as the other to take off freckles, but it muſt be uſed with great caution. It actually burns the ſkin, ſo that it muſt be ſuffered to lie on only a few moments; and, even when uſed ever ſo cautiouſly, it ſometimes cauſes miſchief.

The Bengal Bean-Tree. *Faba Bengalenſis.*

A large tree, native of the eaſt, and not unlike our plum-tree. It is thirty or forty feet high; the leaves are roundiſh, but ſharp-pointed, and of a deep green; they are finely indented, and of a firm texture. The flowers are large and white; they reſemble in all reſpects the bloſſoms of our plum-trees. The fruit is a kind of plum of a long ſhape, with a ſmall quantity of fleſhy matter, and a very large ſtone. It is a kind of myrobolan, but is not exactly the ſame with any that we uſe.

The *Bengal-bean*, as it is called, is an irregular production of this tree: It is very ill named a bean; it is truly a gall like thoſe of the oak; but it does not riſe like them from the wood or leaves, but from the fruit of this particular plum. It is as broad as a walnut, but flatted, and hollowed in the centre; its original is thus: There is a little black fly frequent in that country, which lodges its eggs in the unripe fruit of this particular plum, as we have inſects in England, which always chooſe a particular plant, and a particular part for that purpoſe. The fly always ſtrikes the fruit while it is green, and has but the rudiments of the ſtone. It grows diſtempered from the wound, and the ſtone never ripens in it, but it takes this ſingular form.

It is an excellent aſtringent. It is of the nature of the galls of the oak, but leſs violently binding. It is good in all purgings and bloody fluxes, and againſt the overflowings of the menſes.

Bear's-Breech. *Acanthus.*

A very beautiful plant, native of Italy, and ſome other warm parts of Europe, and kept in our gardens. It grows a yard high; the ſtalk is thick, round, and fleſhy; the leaves grow from the root, and are a foot

long, four inches broad, very beautifully notched at the edges, and are of a dark gloſſy green. The flowers ſtand in a kind of thick ſhort ſpike at the top of the ſtalks, intermixed with ſmall leaves; theſe flowers are large, white, and gaping. The whole plant, when in flower, makes a very beautiful appearance. The root creeps.

This plant is not ſo much known in medicine as it deſerves. The root, being cut in ſlices, and boiled in water, make an excellent diuretic decoction. It was a great medicine with an eminent apothecary of Peterborough, and he gave more relief with it in the gravel and ſtone, than any other medicine would afford.

Bear's-Foot. *Helleborus niger.*

A low and ſingular plant, but not without its beauty; it is a native of many parts of Europe, but we have it only in gardens; the leaves are large; each riſes from the root ſingly, on a foot-ſtalk of ſix inches long, and is divided into nine parts like fingers on a hand: Sometimes the diviſions are fewer. The flowers are very large and beautiful; they are as big as a common ſingle roſe, or nearly ſo; they are white, reddiſh, or greeniſh, according to the time of their having been open; and they ſtand each on a ſingle ſtalk, which riſes from the root, and has no leaves on it. It flowers in January.

The root is an excellent purge, it works briſkly but ſafely; it deſtroys worms, and is good in dropſies, jaundice, and many other diſeaſes, and even in madneſs. But it is very neceſſary to keep it in one's own garden, for, if the root be bought, they commonly ſell them of the green-flowered, wild, or baſtard hellebore in its place, which it is a rough medicine.

Ladies Bedstraw. *Gallium Luteum.*

A pretty wild plant, frequent about hedges in June and the ſucceeding months. The ſtalk is weak, and two feet high, the leaves are of a blackiſh green, and ſmall, and the flowers are yellow. The ſtalk is angular and whitiſh, very brittle, and ſeldom ſtraight; the leaves ſtand a great many at each joint, and are ſmall, narrow, and diſpoſed about the ſtalk like the rowels of a ſpur; the flowers grow in great tufts on the tops of the ſtalks, ſo that they make a very conſpicuous appearance, though ſingly they are very ſmall.

This herb is little regarded, but it has very great virtue; it ſhould be gathered, when the flowers are not quite blown, and dried in the ſhade. An infuſion of it will cure the moſt violent bleedings at the noſe, and almoſt all other evacuations of blood.

Beet. *Beta alba.*

A common garden plant eaten at our tables, but theſe often afford medicines as well as food. The white beet, which is the medicinal kind, grows three or four feet high. The ſtalk is robuſt and ſtrong; the leaves are broad and undulated; the flowers are inconſiderable; they are of a greeniſh white colour; the root is large and long.

The juice of freſh beet-root is an excellent remedy for the head-ach and tooth-ach, when the whole jaw is affected; it is to be ſnuffed up the noſe to promote ſneezing.

The red beet-root is good for the ſame purpoſe, but it is not ſo ſtrong as the white.

White Behen. *Behen album.*

A common wild plant in our corn fields. It is two feet high; the ſtalks are weak, and often crooked; but they are thick enough, round, and of a whitiſh green colour. The leaves are oblong, broad, and of a fine blue green colour, not dented at all at the edges, and they grow two at every joint; the joints of the ſtalk where they grow are ſwelled and large, and the leaves have no ſtalks. The flowers are white, moderately large, and prickly. They ſtand upon a huſk, which ſeems blown up with wind.

This is one of thoſe plants of our own growth, that have more virtue than people imagine. The root, which is long white, and woody, is to be gathered before the ſtalks riſe, and dried. An infuſion is one of the beſt remedies known for nervous complaints; it will not take place againſt a violent preſent diſorder; but it is an excellent preſervative, taken cautiouſly.

Red Behen. *Limonium majus.*

A common wild plant about our ſea-coaſts, and a very pretty one. It grows to a foot in height; the ſtalks are naked, and the flowers red; and, in their diſpoſition, they ſomewhat reſemble lavender, whence the plant is alſo called by ſome *ſea-lavender*. About the bottoms of the ſtalks ſtand cluſters of large and broad leaves, rounded at the ends, of a deep green colour, and fattiſh ſubſtance; theſe riſe immediately from the root, and the ſtalks grow up among them. The ſtalks are very tough and ſtrong, and branched, and of a paler green; the root is long and reddiſh.

The people in Eſſex cure themſelves of purgings, and of overflowing of the menſes, with an infuſion of this root; and it is a very great medicine, though little known. It is to be gathered as ſoon as the

young leaves appear, cleaned and dried; it may be taken in powder, half a dram for a doſe. Theſe are not the white and red behen-roots of the old writers on phyſic, but they are better.

The Ben Nut-Tree. *Balanus Myrepſica.*

This is an Arabian tree, not very large, but exceedingly ſingular in the nature of its leaves. They are compoſed of a great number of ſmall roundiſh parts, growing at the extremities of ſtrong branched foot-ſtalks. The leaves fall firſt, and theſe foot-ſtalks long after. When the leaves are fallen, and the ſtalks remain, the tree makes a very ſingular appearance. The fruit is a pod, long, but ſlender, and containing two ſeeds: Theſe are what we call the *ben-nuts*. They are of an oblong figure, and irregularly rigid; the ſhell is hard, but the kernel fat, ſoft, and oily, and of a bitter taſte.

The kernel operates by vomit and ſtool violently, and is ſeldom uſed. It affords an oil which has neither ſmell nor taſte, and which will keep a long time without growing rancid.

The Benjamin-Tree. *Arbor Benzionifera.*

A beautiful tree frequent in the Eaſt, and there affording the fine fragrant reſin of its name: It is alſo of the growth of America, and thrives there, but it yields no reſin. It is a moderately tall tree; the bark is ſmooth and brown; the leaves are broad, oblong, and not unlike thoſe of the lemon-tree. The flowers are whitiſh, and very inconſiderable. The fruit is as big as a nutmeg, and conſiſts of a fleſhy ſubſtance on the outſide, and a kernel incloſed in a thin and brittle ſhell within. The tree is properly of the bay-tree kind.

They cut the branches of the benjamin-trees, and the juice which flows out hardens by degrees into

that reddiſh and white fragrant reſin we ſee. It is an excellent medicine in diſorders of the breaſt and lungs: And a tincture of it made with ſpirit of wine, makes water milky, and this mixture is called *virgins-milk*; it is good to cleanſe the ſkin.

Wood-Betony. *Betonica Sylveſtris.*

A common wild herb, but of very great virtue. It is frequent in our woods, and among buſhes, and flowers in June. The ſtalks are almoſt naked, and a foot high, and the flowers are purple. There grow many leaves from the root; they have long ſtalks, and are broad, above an inch long, of a blackiſh green colour and hairy, blunt at the point, and indented about the edges. The ſtalks are ſquare, of a dark colour, hairy, and not very ſtrong. The leaves on them are very few, and very diſtant; but they ſtand two at a joint, and are like the others. The flowers ſtand at the tops in form of a kind of thick ſhort ſpike they are ſmall and purple, and of the ſhape of the flowers of mint.

Betony is to be gathered when juſt going to flower. It is excellent for diſorders of the head, and for all nervous complaints. The habitual uſe of it will cure the moſt inveterate head-achs. It may be taken as tea, or dried and powdered. Some mix it with tobacco, and ſmoke it, but this is a more uncertain method.

There is a tall plant with ſmall purple flowers growing by waters, thence and from the ſhape of the leaves called *water-betony*; but it has none of the virtues of this plant; it is a kind of figwort, and poſſeſſes the virtues of that plant, but in an inferior degree.

Bind-Weed. *Convolvulus major.*

A common wild plant which climbs about our hedges, and bears very large white flowers. The ſtalks are weak and ſlender, but very tough, ſix or eight feet long, and twiſt about any thing that can ſupport them. The leaves are large, and of the ſhape of an arrow-head, bearded at the baſe, and ſharp at the point: They ſtand ſingly, not in pairs, and are of a pale green colour. The flowers are of the breadth of a crown-piece at the mouth, and narrower to the baſe, bell-faſhioned, and perfectly white. The root is long and ſlender.

In Northamptonſhire, the poor people uſe the root of this plant, freſh gathered, and boiled in ale as a purge; they ſave the expence of the apothecary, and anſwer the purpoſe better than any one thing would do for them. It would nauſeate a delicate ſtomach, but, for people of their ſtrong conſtitution, there is not a better purge.

The Billberry-Bush. *Vaccinia nigra.*

A little tough ſhrubby plant, common in our boggy woods, and upon wet heaths. The ſtalks are tough, angular, and green; the leaves are ſmall; they ſtand ſingly, not in pairs, and are broad, ſhort, and indented about the edges. The flowers are ſmall but pretty, their colour is a faint red, and they are hollow like a cup. The berries are as large as the biggeſt pea, they are of a blackiſh colour, and of a pleaſant taſte.

A ſyrup made of the juice of billberries, when not over ripe, is cooling and binding; it is a pleaſant and gentle medicine for women whoſe menſes are apt to be too redundant, taken for a week before the time.

The Birch-Tree. *Betula.*

A tall and handſome tree common in our woods and hedges. The bark is ſmooth and white. The young ſhoots are reddiſh, and they are ſmall and long. The leaves are beautiful; they are ſhort, roundiſh, of a fine bright green, and notched about the edges. The flowers are inconſiderable; the fruit is a little ſcaly, globule, preceding the leaves in ſpring.

The juice of the birch-tree, procured by boring a hole in it in ſpring, is diuretic, and good againſt the ſcurvy. The leaves, freſh gathered and boiled in water, afford a decoction, which acts in the ſame manner, and is good in dropſies: And in all cutaneous diſorders, outwardly uſed.

Round-rooted Birthwort. *Ariſtolachia Rotunda.*

A wild plant in Italy and the ſouth of France, but with us found only in the gardens of the curious. It has no great beauty, or even ſingularity in its appearance, till examined: The ſtalks are a foot and a half long, but weak; they are ſquare, and of a duſky green colour. The leaves are ſhort, broad, and roundiſh, of a duſky green; alſo the flowers are long, hollow, and of an odd form, not reſembling the flowers of other plants: They are of a duſky greeniſh colour on the outſide, and purple within: The fruit is fleſhy, and as big as a ſmall walnut. The root is large and roundiſh.

The root is the only part uſed in medicine, and that we have from countries where the plant is a native; it is a rough and diſagreeable medicine; it often offends the ſtomach, but it is an excellent drug for promoting the neceſſary evacuations after delivery.

There are two other kinds of birthwort, the roots

of which are alſo kept in the ſhops; the one called the *long birthwort*, the other the *climbing birthwort*. They poſſeſs the ſame virtues with the round, but in a leſs degree, and are therefore leſs regarded.

Bishops-wood. *Ammi.*

A wild plant in France and Italy, but kept only in our gardens, in its external figure, ſomewhat reſembling parſley when in flower. The ſtalk is round, firm, and ſtriated; it grows two feet high. The leaves are of the compound kind, and formed of many ſmaller, which are broad, ſhort, and indented at the edges. The flowers are ſmall and white, but they ſtand in ſuch large tufts at the tops of the ſtalks that they make a conſiderable appearance. Each flower is ſucceeded by two ſeeds; theſe are ſmall and ſtriated, of a warm aromatic taſte, and not diſagreeable.

The ſeeds are the only part of the plant uſed in medicine; they are good againſt the cholic, as all the other carminative ſeeds are; but they are alſo diuretic, ſo that they are particularly proper in thoſe cholics which ariſe from the ſtone in the kidneys and ureters; they alſo promote the menſes.

There is another ſort of biſhops-weed called *cretic ammi*, the ſeeds of which are uſed in medicine; they are of the ſame virtues with theſe, but are leſs uſed. They have a more ſpicy ſmell.

Bistort. *Biſtorta.*

A very beautiful wild plant: It grows in our meadows, and, when in flower in May and June, is very conſpicuous, as well as very elegant in its appearance. It is about a foot and a half high; the leaves are broad and beautiful, and the flowers grow in a thick ſpike or ear at the top of the ſtalks, and are of a bright red colour. There riſe immediately from the root a

number of large and beautiful leaves, long, broad, and of a fine green colour. The ſtalks on which they ſtand, have alſo a rim of the leaf running down them; the ſtalks are round, firm, and erect, of a pale green, and have two or three leaves, like the others, but ſmaller, on them, placed at diſtances. The ſpike of the flowers is as long and thick as a man's thumb: The root is thick and contorted, blackiſh on the outſide, and red within.

If we minded our own herbs, we ſhould need fewer medicines from abroad. The root of biſtort is one of the beſt aſtringents in the world: Not violent but ſure. The time of gathering it is in March, when the leaves begin to ſhoot. String ſeveral of them on a line, and let them dry in the ſhade. The powder, or decoction of them, will ſtop all fluxes of the belly, and is one of the ſafeſt remedies known for overflowings of the menſes. They are alſo good in a diabetes. The uſe of this root may be continued without danger, till it effects a perfect cure.

BITTER-SWEET. *Solanum Lignoſum.*

A COMMON wild plant, with weak but woody ſtalks that runs among our hedges, and bears bunches of very pretty blue flowers in ſummer, and in autumn red berries. The ſtalks run to ten feet in length, but they cannot ſupport themſelves upright: They are of a bluiſh colour, and, when broken, have a very diſagreeable ſmell like rotten eggs. The leaves are oval, but ſharp-pointed, and have each two little ones near the baſe; they are of a duſky green and indented, and they grow ſingly on the ſtalks. The flowers are ſmall and of a fine purpliſh blue, with yellow threads in the middle. The berries are oblong. This is little regarded in medicine, but it deſerves to be better known: We account the night-ſhades poiſonous, and many of them are ſo; but this has no harm in it. The wood of the larger branches, and the young

rge.
ſhoots of the leaves, are a ſafe and excellent pu this
I have known a dropſy, taken early, cured by
ſingle medicine.

Blood-wort. *Lapathum Sanguineum.*

A beautiful kind of dock kept in gardens, and wild in ſome places. It grows to four feet high; the ſtalks are firm, ſtiff, upright, branched, and ſtriated. The leaves are very long and narrow, broadeſt at the baſe, and ſmaller all the way to the end. They are not at all indented at the edges, and they ſtand upon long foot-ſtalks: Their colour is a deep green, but they are in different degrees ſtained with a beautiful blood-red; ſometimes the ribs only are red, ſometimes there are long veins of red irregularly ſpread over the whole leaf; ſometimes they are very broad, and in ſome plants the whole leaves and the ſtalks alſo are of a blood colour; the flowers are very numerous and little. They, in all reſpects, reſemble thoſe of the common wild docks. The root is long and thick, and of a deep blood-red colour.

The roots are uſed: They are beſt dry, and they may be given in decoction, or in powder: They are powerfully aſtringent; they ſtop bloody-fluxes, ſpitting of blood, and the overflowings of the menſes. It is alſo good againſt violent purgings and againſt the whites.

Bramble. *Rubus vulgaris.*

The moſt common buſh in our hedges. The ſtalks are woody, angulated, and of a purpliſh colour; and they are armed with crooked ſpines; the leaves are rough, indented, and ſtand either five or three on a ſtalk. The flowers are white, with a very faint tinge of purpliſh, and the fruit is compoſed of a number of ſmall grains.

The moſt neglected things have their uſe. The

buds of the bramble-leaves boiled in ſpring-water, and the decoction ſweetened with honey, are excellent for a ſore throat. A ſyrup made of the juice of the unripe fruit, with very fine ſugar, is cooling and aſtringent. It is good in immoderate fluxes of the menſes, and even in purgings. The berries are to be gathered for this purpoſe, when they are red.

Blue-Bottle. *Cyanus.*

A very common and a very pretty weed among our corn; the leaves are narrow, and of a whitiſh green; and the flowers of a very beautiful blue, and large. The plant is about a foot high, and, when in flower, makes a conſpicuous and elegant appearance. The root is hard and fibrous; the ſtalk is very firm, white, and augulated, and branched. The leaves that grow from the root have ſome notches on the edges; thoſe on the ſtalk have none, and they are narrow like blades of graſs; the flowers ſtand only on the tops of the branches, and they grow out of ſcaly heads. The ſeeds are beautiful, hard, white, and ſhining.

The leaves which grow on the ſtalks of the blue-bottle, freſh gathered and bruiſed, will ſtop the bleeding of a freſh wound, even if a large veſſel be cut. They are not ſufficiently known for this purpoſe, but they exceed all other things: And may ſave a life where a ſurgeon is not to be had in time for ſuch an accident. A diſtilled water of the flowers uſed to be kept in the ſhops, but it was of no value. An infuſion of them works gently by urine.

There is a large kind of this plant in gardens, which is called a *vulnerary* or *wound-herb.* But it is not ſo good as this.

The Box-Tree. *Buxus.*

A common little ſhrub in our gardens, and a native of our own country, though not common in its wild

ſtate. With us it grows but to a ſmall height; in ſome other parts of Europe, it is a tolerably large ſhrub. The bark is whitiſh, the wood yellow; the leaves ſmall, roundiſh, ſmooth, of a very dark green colour, and very numerous. The flowers are ſmall, and greeniſh yellow; the fruit is little, round, and furniſhed with three points.

The wood of the box-tree, and particularly of the root, is an excellent medicine in all foulneſſes of the blood, it has the ſame virtues with the guiacum, but in a greater degree. It is to be given in decoction, not made too ſtrong, and continued a long time. There have been inſtances of what were called *leproſies* cured entirely by this medicine. There is an oil made from it by diſtillation, which is good for the tooth-ach. It is to be dropped on cotton, and to be put into the tooth.

Borage. *Borago.*

A rough plant, common in our gardens, with great leaves, and beautiful blue flowers. It grows two feet high; the ſtalks are thick, round, fleſhy, and juicy; and covered with a kind of hairineſs ſo ſturdy, that it almoſt amounts to the nature of prickles. The leaves are oblong, broad, very rough and wrinkled; and they have the ſame ſort of hairineſs, but leſs ſtiff than that of the ſtalk; the largeſt grow from the root, but thoſe on the ſtalks are nearly of the ſame ſhape. The flowers are placed toward the tops of the branches; they are divided into five parts of a moſt beautiful blue, and have a black eye, as it were, in the middle.

Borage has the credit of being a great cordial; but, if it poſſeſs any ſuch virtues, they are to be obtained only by a light cold infuſion; ſo that the way of throwing it into cold wine is better than all the medicinal preparations, for in them it is nauſeous.

White Bryony. *Brionia alba.*

A tall, climbing, wild plant, which covers our hedges in many places. The leaves are ſomewhat like thoſe of the vine; the flowers are inconſiderable; but the berries are red, and make a great ſhew. The root is vaſtly large, rough, and whitiſh; the ſtalks are tough, ten or twelve feet long; but weak and unable to ſupport themſelves; they have tendrils at the joints, and by theſe they affix themſelves to buſhes. The leaves are broad, and divided deeply at the edge, and they are hairy. The flowers are of a greeniſh white, and ſmall, but the berries are moderately large, and full of ſeeds.

The root is the only part uſed in medicine; the juice of it operates very ſtrongly by vomit and ſtool, and that in a ſmall doſe. All conſtitutions cannot bear it, but, for thoſe that can, it is excellent in many ſevere diſeaſes; dropſies have been cured by it. It is alſo good againſt hyſteric complaints, but for this purpoſe, it is to be given in very ſmall doſes, and frequently repeated.

Black Bryony. *Brionia nigra.*

There is not any inſtance which more blames our neglect of the medicines of our own growth, than this of the black bryony, a medicine ſcarce known or heard of, but equal to any.

The plant climbs upon buſhes and hedges like the former, but this by twiſting its ſtalk about the branches of trees and ſhrubs, for it has no tendrils. It runs to fifteen feet in height; the ſtalk is tough and angular; the leaves are broad, and of a heart-like ſhape, and are perfectly ſmooth and ſhining, and of a gloſſy and very deep blackiſh green. The flowers are very ſmall, and of a greeniſh white; the

berries are red. The root is black without, white within, and full of a ſlimy juice.

The root of black briony is one of the beſt diuretics known in medicine. It is an excellent remedy in the gravel, and all other obſtructions of urine, and other diſorders of the urinary paſſages.

Brooklime. *Anagallis Aquatica, Becabunga.*

A common wild herb frequent about ſhallow waters, with a thick ſtalk, roundiſh leaves, and ſpikes of little bright blue flowers. Brooklime grows to a foot high. The ſtalk is round, fleſhy, and large, yet it does not grow very upright: It ſtrikes root at the lower joints. The leaves are broad, oblong, blunt at the end, and a little indented on the edges. The flowers ſtand ſingly on ſhort foot-ſtalks one over another, ſo that they form a kind of looſe ſpike; the roots are fibrous.

Brooklime has great virtues, but muſt be uſed freſh gathered, for they are all loſt in drying. The juice in ſpring is very good againſt the ſcurvy; but it muſt be taken for ſome time. It works gently by urine, but its great virtue is in ſweetening the blood.

Broom. *Geniſta.*

A common naked-looking ſhrub that grows on waſte grounds, and bears yellow flowers in May. It is two or three feet high. The ſtalks are very tough, angular and green; the leaves are few, and they are alſo ſmall; they grow three together, and ſtand at diſtances on the long and ſlender ſtalks; the flowers are numerous, they are ſhaped like a pea-bloſſom, and are of a beautiful bright yellow; the pods are flat and hairy.

The green ſtalks of broom, infuſed in ale or beer for the common drink, operate by urine, and remove obſtructions of the liver and other parts; they are fa-

mous in the dropſy and jaundice. It is a common practice to burn them to aſhes, and infuſe thoſe aſhes in white-wine; thus the fixed ſalt is extracted, and the wine becomes a kind of lee. This alſo works by urine more powerfully than the other, but the other is preferable for removing obſtructions.

Butchers-Broom. *Ruſcus.*

A little ſhrubby plant, frequent on our waſte grounds and heaths, with ſmall prickly leaves and buſhy tops. The plant grows a foot and a half high. The ſtalks are roundiſh, ſtriated, thick, and very tough; they are naked towards the bottom, and divide into ſome branches towards the top; they are there covered with leaves; theſe leaves are ſhort, broad, oval, and pointed, the point running out in a prickle; they are of a bluiſh green, and very thick and fleſhy; the flowers are ſeldom regarded; they grow in a ſingular manner upon the backs of the leaves; they are very ſmall and purpliſh: Theſe are ſucceeded each by a ſingle berry, which is red, round, and as big as a pea. The roots are white, thick, and numerous.

The root is the part uſed, and it is an excellent medicine to remove obſtructions. It works powerfully by urine, and is good in jaundices, and in ſtoppages of the menſes, and excellent in the gravel.

Buck-beans. *Trifolium Paluſtre.*

An herb better known by the common people than among the apothecaries, but of great virtue. It grows wild with us in marſhy places, and is of ſo very ſingular an appearance, that it muſt be known at ſight. It grows a foot high, the leaves ſtand three upon each ſtalk, and theſe ſtalks riſe immediately from the roots. They are thick, round, ſmooth, and fleſhy; and the leaves themſelves are large, oblong, and have ſome reſemblance of thoſe of garden-beans. The flowers

ſtand upon naked ſtalks, which are alſo thick, round, fleſhy, and whitiſh: They are ſmall, but they grow together in a kind of thick ſhort ſpike, ſo that in the cluſter they make a conſpicuous appearance; they are white with a very faint tinge of purple, and are hairy within; the root is whitiſh, long, and thick.

The leaves of buck-bean are to be gathered before the ſtalks appear for flowering, and are to be dried; the powder of them will cure agues, but their great uſe is againſt the rheumatiſm: For this purpoſe they are to be given for a continuance of time in infuſion, or in the manner of tea.

Buckthorn. *Spina Cervina.*

A prickly ſhrub, common in our hedges, with pale green leaves, and black berries. It grows to eight or ten feet high. The bark is dark-coloured and gloſſy, and the twigs are tough; the leaves are oval, of a very regular and pretty figure, and elegantly dented round the edges; the flowers are little and inconſiderable; they are of a greeniſh yellow, and grow in little cluſters. The berries, which are ripe in September, are round, gloſſy, black, as big as the largeſt pepper-corns, and contain each three or four ſeeds.

The juice of the berries, boiled up with ſugar, makes a good purge; but it is apt to gripe, unleſs ſome ſpice be added in the making: It is a rough purge, but a very good one.

Buckshorn-Plantain. *Coronopus.*

A very pretty little plant which grows in our ſandy and barren places, with the leaves ſpread out in the manner of a ſtar all the way round from the root, and in the heads like other plantains, although ſo very unlike them in its leaves; the root is long and ſlender; the leaves, which lie thus flat upon the ground, are

narrow and long, very beautifully notched and divided, ſo as to reſemble a buck's horn, whence the name, and of a pale whitiſh green, and a little hairy. The ſtalks are ſlender, ſix inches long, but ſeldom quite erect; they are round, hairy, and whitiſh, and have at the top a ſpike of flowers of an inch or two in length, altogether like that of the other plantains, only more ſlender.

This plant has obtained the name of *ſtar of the earth*, from the way of the leaves ſpreading themſelves. Theſe leaves bruiſed, and applied to a freſh wound, ſtop the bleeding, and effect a cure. It is ſaid alſo to be a remedy againſt the bite of a mad dog, but this is idle and groundleſs.

Bugle. *Bugula.*

A common wild plant, and a very pretty one, with gloſſy leaves, creeping ſtalks, and blue flowers; it is frequent in damp woods. The ſtalks, when they riſe up to bear the flowers, are eight or ten inches high, ſquare, of a pale green colour, often a little purpliſh; and have two leaves at every joint, the joints being ſomewhat diſtant. Theſe leaves are of the ſame form with thoſe which riſe immediately from the root, oblong, broad, blunt at the point, and of a deep green colour, ſometimes alſo a little purpliſh, and are ſlightly indented round the edges; the flowers are ſmall, and of a beautiful blue, in ſhape like thoſe of betony; they grow in a ſort of circles round the upper part of the ſtalks, forming a kind of looſe ſpikes; the cups remain when the flowers are gone, and hold the ſeeds.

The juice of this plant is eſteemed good for inward bruiſes; it is a very good diuretic.

Bugloss. *Bugloſſum Hortenſe.*

A rough and unſightly plant, kept in our gardens for the ſake of its virtues, but very rarely uſed. It

grows to a foot and a half high; the leaves are rough like thoſe of borage, but they are long and narrow, of a deep green colour, and rough ſurface; the ſtalks are alſo covered with a rough and almoſt prickly hairineſs; the ſame ſort of leaves ſtand on theſe as riſe immediately from the root, only ſmaller. The flowers ſtand at the tops of the branches, and are very pretty, though not very large; they are red when they firſt open, but they afterwards become blue; the root is long and brown; it flowers in June and July.

Bugloſs ſhares with borage the credit of being a cordial; but perhaps neither of them have any great title to the character; it is uſed like borage in cool tankards, for there is no way of making any regular preparation of it that is poſſeſſed of any virtues.

There is a wild kind of bugloſs upon ditch-banks, very like the garden kind, and of the ſame virtues.

Burdock. *Bardana.*

If the laſt-mentioned plant has more credit for medicinal virtues than it deſerves, this is not ſo much regarded as it ought. Providence has made ſome of the moſt uſeful plants the moſt common, but, becauſe they are ſo, we fooliſhly neglect them.

It is hardly neceſſary to deſcribe the common burdock. It may be enough to ſay, that it grows a yard high, and has vaſt leaves of a figure approaching to triangular, and of a whitiſh green colour; the ſtalks are round, ſtriated, and very tough; the flowers are ſmall and red, and they grow among the hooked prickles of thoſe heads which we call *burs*, and which ſtick to our clothes. Even this ſeems a proviſion of nature in kindneſs to us. In pulling of theſe we ſcatter the ſeeds of which they are compoſed, and give riſe to a moſt uſeful plant in a new place. The root of the burdock is long and thick, brown on the outſide, and whitiſh within; this is the part uſed in medicine, and it is of very great virtues. It is to be boiled, or infuſed in

water; the virtue is diuretic, and is very powerfully ſo. It has cured dropſies alone. The ſeeds have the ſame virtue, but in a leſs degree. The root is ſaid to be ſudorific and good in fevers; but its virtue in operating by urine is its great value.

BURNET. *Pimpinella Sanguiſorba.*

A COMMON wild plant. It grows by way-ſides, and in dry places, and flowers in July. The leaves which riſe immediately from the root are very beautiful; they are of the winged kind, being compoſed of a great number of ſmaller, growing on each ſide a middle rib, with an odd one at the end. They are broad, ſhort, roundiſh, and elegantly ſerrated round the edges; the ſtalks are a foot high, round, ſtriated, purpliſh or green, and almoſt naked; the few leaves they have are like thoſe at the bottom. On the tops of theſe ſtalks ſtand the flowers; they are diſpoſed in little round cluſters, and are ſmall and of a pale reddiſh colour, and have a number of threads in the middle.

Burnet is called a *cordial*, and a *ſudorific*, and is recommended in fevers. They put it alſo into cool tankards like borrage. The root is a good aſtringent; dried and powdered, it ſtops fluxes and overflowings of the menſes.

BURNET SAXIFRAGE. *Pimpinella Saxifraga.*

A PRETTY plant, wild in our dry paſtures, and under hedges, but not very common in all parts of the kingdom; it grows two feet high, and has the flowers in umbels; the ſtalk is firm, ſtriated, and branched; the leaves riſing from the root are pinnated, and the leſſer leaves, of which they are compoſed, are hard, of a deep green, narrow, and indented. The leaves upon the ſtalks are ſmaller and narrower; the flowers are little and white, but they ſtand in ſo large cluſters, that they make a good figure; the root is white, and of a hot burning taſte; the ſeeds are ſtriated.

The root is the only part uſed; it ſhould be taken up in ſpring before the ſtalks ſhoot up, and dried. It is very good in cholics and diſorders of the ſtomach, and it works by urine.

Butter-Bur. *Petaſites.*

A very ſingular and very conſpicuous plant, not unfrequent with us in wet places. The flowers appear before the leaves, and they would hardly be ſuppoſed to belong to the ſame plant. The ſtalks are round, thick, ſpungy, and of a whitiſh colour, and have a few films by way of leaves upon them. On the top of each ſtands a ſpike of flowers, of a pale reddiſh colour; the whole does not riſe to more than eight inches in height. Theſe appear in March. When they are dead, the leaves grow up; theſe are roundiſh, green on the upper ſide, and whitiſh underneath, of a vaſt bigneſs, and ſtand ſingly upon hollowed foot-ſtalks, of a purpliſh, whitiſh, or greeniſh colour; they are often two feet broad. The root is white and long, it creeps under the ſurface of the ground.

The root is the part uſed; it is praiſed very highly as a remedy in peſtilential fevers; but, whether it deſerve that praiſe or not, it is a good diuretic, and excellent in the gravel.

Bur-Reed. *Sparganium.*

A common water-plant, with leaves like flags, and rough heads of ſeeds: It is two or three feet high. The ſtalks are round, green, thick, and upright. The leaves are very long and narrow, ſharp at the edges, and with a ſharp ridge on the back along the middle; they are of a pale green, and look freſh and beautiful. The flowers are inconſiderable and yellowiſh; they ſtand in a kind of circular tufts about the upper part of the ſtalk: Lower down ſtand the rough fruits called burs, from whence the plant ob-

tained its name; they are of the bigneſs of a large nutmeg, green and rough. The root is compoſed of a quantity of white fibres.

The unripe fruit is uſed; they are aſtringent, and good againſt fluxes of the belly, and bleedings of all kinds: The beſt way of giving them is infuſed in a rough red-wine, with a little cinnamon. They uſe them in ſome parts of England externally for wounds. A ſtrong decoction of them is made to waſh old ulcers, and the juice is applied to freſh hurts, and they ſay with great ſucceſs.

C.

The Chocolate Nut-Tree. *Cacao.*

This is an American tree, very beautiful, as well as very valuable for its fruit. The trunk is of the thickneſs of a man's leg, and the height of fifteen feet; but in this it differs greatly according to the ſoil; and the ſize of the fruit alſo will differ from the ſame cauſe; whence ſome have talked of four different kinds of the chocolate-nut. The tree grows very regularly; the ſurface is uneven, for the bark riſes into tubercles; the leaves are half a foot long, three inches broad, of a fine ſtrong green, and pointed at the ends; the flowers are ſmall and yellowiſh, and they grow in cluſters from the branches, and even from the trunk of the tree; but each has its ſeparate ſtalk. The fruit is of the ſhape of a cucumber, half a foot long, and thicker than a man's wriſt; this is rigid, and, when ripe, of a purpliſh colour, with ſome tinct of yellow. The *Cacao nuts*, as they are called, are lodged within this fruit; every fruit contains between twenty and thirty of them; they are of the bigneſs of a large olive, but not ſo thick; and are com-

poſed of a woody ſhell, and a large kernel, which affords the chocolate.

The common way of taking this in chocolate is not the only one in which it may be given; the nut itſelf may be put into electuaries. It is very nouriſhing and reſtorative.

Calamint. *Calamintha.*

A common wild plant of great virtues, but too much neglected. It is frequent by our hedges, and in dry places, and is a very robuſt herb. It is eight or ten inches high, and has roundiſh dark green leaves, and white flowers. The ſtalks are ſquare, and very much branched; the leaves are of the bigneſs of a man's thumb-nail, ſomewhat hairy, and ſlightly indented about the edges; the flowers ſtand in little cluſters ſurrounding the ſtalks, and are of a whitiſh colour, a little tinged with purpliſh; the root is compoſed of a few fibres. Calamint ſhould be gathered when juſt coming into flower, and carefully dried; it is afterwards to be given in the manner of tea, and it will do great ſervices in weakneſſes of the ſtomach, and in habitual cholics. I have known effectual and laſting cures performed by it.

Pennyroyal Calamint. *Calamintha odore Pulegii.*

A little plant of the ſame kind with the other, and found in ſome places, but more common. It is a foot high; the ſtalks are robuſt and firm; the leaves are ſmall, and of a whitiſh green colour, and more hairy than in the other; the flowers are ſmall and white, with a tinge of purple; the plant grows more erect, and is leſs branched than the other; and it has a very ſtrong and not a very agreeable ſmell; the other is ſtrong-ſcented and pleaſant.

This is to be preſerved dry as the other, and taken in the ſame manner. It is excellent againſt ſtoppages

of the menſes, and, if taken conſtantly, will bring them to a regular courſe.

Calves-Snout, *or* Snapdragon. *Antirrhinum.*

A common wild plant in many parts of Europe, and is very frequent in our gardens, and upon the walls of gardens; its natural ſituation is on hills among barren rocks, and nothing comes ſo near that as the top of an old wall with us: The ſeeds are light, and are eaſily carried thither by the wind, and they never fail to ſtrike, and the plant flouriſhes. It is two feet high, the ſtalks are round, thick, firm, and tolerably upright, but generally a little bent towards the bottom; the leaves are very numerous; they are oblong, narrow, not indented at the edges, blunt at the ends, and of a bluiſh green colour. The flowers are large and red, they ſtand in a kind of looſe ſpikes upon the tops of the ſtalks; the root is white and oblong.

The freſh tops are uſed; an infuſion of them works by urine, and has been recommended by ſome in the jaundice, and in other diſeaſes ariſing from obſtructions of the viſcera; but we have ſo many Engliſh plants that excel in this particular, and the taſte of the infuſion is ſo far from agreeable, that it is not worth while to have recourſe to it.

Camels-hay. *Schenanthus.*

A sort of graſs of a fragrant ſmell, frequent in many parts of the eaſt, and brought over to us dried for the uſe of medicine. It grows to a foot high, and in all reſpects reſembles ſome of our common kinds of graſs, particularly the *darnel.* The leaves are long and narrow; the ſtalks are round and jointed, and have graſſy leaves alſo on them, and the flowers ſtand on the tops of the ſtalks in a double ſeries; they are not unlike thoſe of our graſſes, chaffy, and ornamented with a few filaments.

It was at one time in great eſteem as a medicine; they called it a cordial, and a promoter of the menſes, but it is now very little regarded.

Chamomile. *Chamæmelum.*

A common low wild plant, of a beautiful green, a fragrant ſmell, and with flowers not unlike daiſies. It is frequent on damp heaths, and gets no good by being brought into gardens. It grows larger there, but has leſs efficacy. In its wild ſtate it ſpreads its branches upon the ground, taking root at the joints. The ſtalks are round, green, and thick; the leaves are very finely divided, and of a dark blackiſh green colour. The flowers grow upon long foot-ſtalks, and are white at the edge, and yellow in the middle: The flowers are moſt uſed. Thoſe which are raiſed for ſale are double, and they have very little virtue in compariſon of the ſingle ones. They are to be taken in tea, which is a pleaſant bitter; or in powder they are excellent for diſorders of the ſtomach, and have ſometimes cured agues, as many other bitters will. The tea made of them is alſo good againſt the cholic, and works by urine.

The Camphor-Tree. *Arbor Camphorifera.*

This is a kind of bay-tree of the Eaſt-Indies, but it grows to the height of our talleſt trees. The bark is brown and uneven on the trunk, but it is ſmooth and green on the young branches. The leaves are like thoſe of the common bay-tree, only a little longer; and they are curled at the edges. The flowers are ſmall and white, and the fruit is a berry altogether like our bay-berries, and of the bigneſs of a large pea. The wood of the tree is white, or a little reddiſh, and veined with black, and ſmells of the camphire. The leaves alſo, when they are bruiſed, ſmell of camphire; and the fruit moſt of all.

The only product of this tree, uſed in medicine, is the reſin called *camphire*; and this is not a natural, but a ſort of chymical preparation. They cut the wood to pieces, and put it into a ſort of ſubliming veſſel, with an earthen head full of ſtraw. They make a fire underneath, and the camphire riſes in form of a white meal, and is found among the ſtraw. This is refined afterwards, and becomes the camphire we uſe.

It is ſudorific, and works by urine. It alſo promotes the menſes, and is good in diſorders of the bladder.

WHITE CAMPION. *Lychnis Flore alba.*

A COMMON wild plant in our hedges and dry paſtures, with hairy leaves, and white flowers. It grows to a foot and a half high: The ſtalks are round and hairy; the leaves are of an oval form, and alſo hairy; and they grow two at every joint: They are of a duſky green, and are not indented about the edges. The flowers are moderately large, and white; they grow in a kind of ſmall cluſters on the tops of the branches, and each has its ſeparate foot-ſtalk.

This is a plant not much regarded for its virtues, but it deſerves notice; the country people gather the flowers in ſome places, and give them in the whites and other weakneſſes with ſucceſs.

THE CANEL BARK-TREE, *called the* WINTER'S BARK-TREE. *Canella Alba.*

A VERY beautiful American tree. It grows fifty feet high, and is commonly much branched. The bark is of a greyiſh brown; the leaves are very like thoſe of the bay-tree, and the flowers are purple; they are ſingly very ſmall, but they ſtand in a kind of umbels, and make a very pretty figure; the fruit is a berry which ſtands in the cup of the flower; it is of

the bigneſs of a pea, and of a deep blackiſh purple when ripe. It is frequent in Jamaica in wet places.

The inner rind of this tree is the part uſed in medicine; it is brought to us rolled up in quills, in the manner of cinnamon, and is of a ſpicy taſte, and of a whitiſh colour. Its proper name is *canella alba*, white canel; but the druggiſts have accuſtomed themſelves to call it *cortex winteranus*, winter's bark. It has the ſame virtues with that, but in a much leſs degree; and they are eaſily known aſunder, that being the whole bark of the tree, and compoſed of two coats; this being only the inner bark, and therefore compoſed only of one. It is good in weakneſſes of the ſtomach, and in habitual cholics. Some recommend it greatly in palſies and all nervous complaints, but its virtues of this kind are not ſo well eſtabliſhed.

Canterbury Bells. *Trachelium Majus.*

A very beautiful wild plant, with leaves like the ſtinging-nettle, and large and very elegant blue flowers. It grows by road-ſides, and in dry paſtures, and is two or three feet high. The ſtalks are ſquare, thick, upright, ſtrong, and hairy. The leaves grow irregularly, they are of a duſky green, and ſtand upon long foot-ſtalks; they are broad at the baſe, and ſharp at the point, and all the way indented very ſharply at the edges. They are hairy, and rough to the touch. The flowers grow ten or a dozen together at the top of every branch; they are very large, and of a beautiful blue colour, hollow and divided into ſeveral parts of the extremity. If the ſoil be poor, the flowers will vary in their colour to a pale blue, reddiſh, or white, but the plant is ſtill the ſame.

The freſh tops, with the buds of the flowers upon them, contain moſt virtue, but the dried leaves may be uſed. An infuſion of them ſharpened with a few drops of ſpirit of vitriol, and ſweetened with honey,

is an excellent medicine for ſore throats, uſed by way of a gargle. The plant is ſo famous for this virtue, that one of its common Engliſh names is *throat-wort*: If the medicine be ſwallowed, there is no harm in it; but, in the uſe of every thing in this way, it is beſt to ſpit the liquor out together with the foulneſſes which it may have waſhed from the affected parts.

The Caper Shrub. *Capparis.*

A common ſhrub in France and Italy, and kept in our gardens. The pickles which we know under the name of *capers* are made of the buds of the flowers; but the part to be uſed in medicine is the bark of the roots.

The ſhrub grows to no great height; the branches are weak, and ill able to ſupport themſelves, they are tough and prickly: The leaves ſtand irregularly, and are of an oval or roundiſh figure; the thorns are hooked like thoſe of the bramble; the flowers, when full opened, are purpliſh and very pretty; the fruit is roundiſh.

The bark of the root is to be taken in powder, or infuſion; it is good againſt obſtructions of the liver and ſpleen, in the jaundice, and hypocondriac complaints: It is alſo recommended in indigeſtions.

The Caranna-Tree. *Caranna Arbor.*

A tall Eaſt-India tree, and a very beautiful one: The trunk is thick, and the bark upon it is brown and rough; that on the young branches is ſmooth and yellowiſh. The leaves are long and narrow, like thoſe of ſome of our willow-trees. The flower is ſmall, and of a pale colour, and the fruit is of the bigneſs of an apple.

The reſin, called *gum-caranna*, is a product of this tree; it is procured by cutting the branches; they

ſend it in rolls covered with leaves of ruſhes; it is blackiſh on the outſide. and brown within.

It is ſuppoſed a good nervous medicine, but it is rarely uſed.

THE LESSER CARDAMOM PLANT. *Cardamomum Minus.*

AN Eaſt-Indian plant, in many reſpects reſembling our reeds. It grows to ten or twelve feet high. The ſtalk is an inch thick, round, ſmooth, green, and hollow, but with a pith within. The leaves are half a yard long, and as broad as a man's hand: Beſides theſe ſtalks, there ariſe from the ſame root others which are weak, tender, and about eight inches high; theſe produce the flowers, which are ſmall and greeniſh, and after every flower, one of the fruits called the *leſſer cardamoms*, which are a light dry hollow fruit, of a whitiſh colour, and ſomewhat triangular ſhape, of the bigneſs of an horſe-bean, and of a dry ſubſtance on the outſide, but with ſeveral ſeeds within, which are reddiſh and very acrid, but pleaſant to the taſte.

Theſe fruits are the leſſer cardamoms, or, as they are generally called, the *cardamom-ſeeds* of the ſhops. They are excellent to ſtrengthen the ſtomach, and aſſiſt digeſtion. They are alſo good for diſorders of the head, and they are equal to any thing againſt cholics; they are beſt taken by chewing them ſingly in the mouth, and their taſte is not at all diſagreeable.

The two other kinds are the middle cardamom, a long fruit very rarely met with, and the great cardamom, otherwiſe called *the grain of Paradiſe*, is much better than the cardamoms.

THE CARANNA-TREE. *Caragna.*

A TALL and ſpreading tree of the Weſt-Indies, the branches are numerous and irregular; the trunk is

covered with a brown bark, the branches with a paler; they are brittle; the leaves are long and narrow, of a pale green, and ſharp-pointed; the flowers are ſmall, the fruit is roundiſh, and of the bigneſs of an apple. This is the beſt account we have of it, but this is far from perfect or ſatisfactory in every reſpect.

All that we uſe of it is a reſin, which ouzes out of the bark, in the great heats; this is brown, ſomewhat ſoft, and we have it in oblong pieces, rolled up in ruſhes; we put it only externally; a plaiſter made of it is good for diſorders of the head, and ſome ſay will cure the ſciatica without internal medicines; but this is not probable.

Carline Thistle. *Carlina.*

I have obſerved that many plants are not ſo much regarded for their virtues, as they ought to be; there are, on the contrary, ſome which are celebrated more than they deſerve: The carline thiſtle is of this laſt number. It is not wholly without virtues, but it has not all that are aſcribed to it.

This is a plant without any ſtalk. The leaves are long, narrow, of a dark green colour, divided and prickly at the edges; and they lie ſpread upon the ground in manner of a ſtar. The flower appears in the midſt of theſe without a ſtalk, riſing immediately from the root, with ſeveral ſmall leaves round about it. It is the head of a thiſtle, and the flowery part is white on the edge, and yellow in the middle. The root is long, and of a brown colour on the outſide, and reddiſh within; it is of a warm aromatic taſte.

This is the only part of the plant uſed in medicine. They ſay it is a remedy for the plague: But however that may be, it is good in nervous complaints, and in ſtoppages of the menſes.

The Caraway Plant. *Carum.*

A wild plant of the umbelliferous kind, frequent in moſt parts of Europe, but cultivated in Germany for the ſake of the ſeed. I have met with it very common in Lincolnſhire.

It grows to a yard high; the ſtalks are ſtriated and firm; the leaves are finely divided, and the flowers are white and ſmall, they grow in tufts, or umbels, on the tops of the branches; the ſeeds that follow them are very well known.

The ſeeds are excellent in the cholic, and in diſorders of the ſtomach; they are beſt chewed.

Wild Carrot. *Daucus Sylveſtris.*

A common plant about our hedges, and in dry paſtures. It grows near a yard high, and has ſmall flowers, and after them rough ſeeds diſpoſed in umbels, at the tops of the branches, theſe are hollow, and thence called by the children *birds-neſts.*

The ſtalks are ſtriated and firm, the leaves are divided into fine and numerous partitions, and are of a pale green and hairy; the flowers are white.

The ſeed is the part uſed in medicine, and it is a very good diuretic; it is excellent in all diſorders of the gravel and ſtone, and all obſtructions of urine; it is alſo good in ſtoppages of the menſes.

Candy Carrots. *Daucus Cretenſis.*

A plant frequent in the Eaſt, and cultivated in ſome places for the ſeed. It grows near a yard high; the ſtalk is firm, upright, ſtriated, and branched: The leaves are like thoſe of fennel, only more finely divided, and of a whitiſh colour; the flowers are white, and the ſeeds are oblong, thick in the middle, and downy.

Theſe ſeeds are the only part uſed: They are good in cholics, and they work by urine, but thoſe of our own wild plant are more ſtrongly diuretic.

The Cascarilla-Tree. *Caſcarilla.*

A tree of South-America, of the fruits and flowers of which we have but very imperfect accounts, tho' we are very well acquainted with the bark of its young branches. What we have been told of it is, that the branches are numerous, and ſpreading irregularly; that the leaves are oblong, green on the upper ſide, and whitiſh underneath; and the flowers ſmall, fragrant, and placed in a ſort of cluſter.

The bark which our druggiſts ſell is greyiſh on the outſide, brown within, and is of an agreeable ſmell: When burnt they call it *eleutherian bark*, and *baſtard Jeſuits bark:* It is cordial and aſtringent. It is very properly given in fevers attended with purging. And many have a cuſtom of ſmoking it among tobacco; as a remedy of head-achs, and diſorders of the nerves: It alſo does good in pleuriſies and peripneumonies: Some have recommended it as a ſovereign remedy in thoſe caſes, but that goes too far.

The Cassia Fistula Tree. *Caſſia Feſtula.*

This is a large tree, native of the Eaſt, and a very beautiful one when in flower. It grows twenty or thirty feet high, and is very much branched. The leaves are large and of a deep green, and each is compoſed of three or four pairs of ſmaller, with an odd one at the end. The flowers are of a greeniſh yellow, but they are very bright, and very numerous, ſo that they make a fine appearance, when the tree is full of them: The pods follow theſe, they are two feet long, black, and woody, having within a black, ſoft, pulpy matter, and the ſeeds.

This pulpy matter is the only part uſed in medi-

cine. It is a gentle and excellent purge, the lenitive electuary owes its virtues to it. It never binds afterward, and therefore is an excellent medicine for thoſe who are of coſtive habits; a ſmall doze of it being taken frequently.

The Cassia Bark Tree. *Caſſia Lignea.*

This is a large ſpreading tree, frequent in the Eaſt-Indies, and very much reſembling the cinnamon-tree in its appearance. The branches are covered with a browniſh bark; the leaves are oblong, and pointed at the ends, and of a deep green colour, and fragrant ſmell. The flowers are ſmall, and the fruit reſembles that of the cinnamon-tree.

The bark of the branches of this tree is the only part uſed in medicine; it is of a reddiſh brown colour like cinnamon, and reſembles it in ſmell and taſte, only it is fainter in the ſmell, and leſs acrid to the taſte; and it leaves a glutinous or mucilaginous matter in the mouth. It is often mixed among cinnamon, and it poſſeſſes the ſame virtues, but in a leſs degree. However, in purgings it is better than cinnamon, becauſe of its mucilaginous nature. It is an excellent remedy given in powder in theſe caſes, and is not ſo much uſed as it ought to be.

The Cassia Caryophythata, *or* Clove Bark Tree. *Caſſia Caryophythata..*

This is a large and beautiful tree, frequent in South America. The trunk is covered with a duſky bark, the branches with one that is paler coloured and more ſmooth. The leaves are like thoſe of our bay-tree, only larger, and when bruiſed, they have a very fragrant ſmell: The flowers are ſmall and blue, and have a white eye in the middle.

The only part of this tree uſed in medicine, is the inner bark of the branches. This is brown, thin,

and rolled up like cinnamon; it is hard in colour, of a ſpicy ſmell, and in taſte it has a mixed flavour of cinnamon and cloves, and is very hot and pungent.

It is good in diſorders of the ſtomach, and in cholics, but it is not ſo much uſed as it deſerves.

CASSIDORY, *or* ARABIAN STÆCHAS. *Stæchas Arabica.*

A VERY fragrant and pretty ſhrub, native of Spain, and many other warm parts of Europe. It grows much in the manner of lavender, to a yard or more in height, and is not uncommon in our gardens. The branches are firm and woody: The young ſhoots are pliable and ſquare, and are naked to the top. The leaves ſtand upon the branches, two at each joint; they are long, narrow, and white. The flowers ſtand in little cluſters or heads, like thoſe of lavender; and there are two or three large and beautiful deep blue leaves upon the tops of the heads, which give them a very elegant appearance.

The flowers are the only part uſed: They are of the nature of thoſe of lavender, but more aromatic in the ſmell: They are very ſerviceable in all nervous complains, and help to promote the menſes. They are beſt taken dried and powdered.

THE CASSUMUNAR PLANT. *Caſſumunar.*

A COMMON plant of the Eaſt-Indies, but of which we do not ſeem to have yet ſo perfect a deſcription as might be wiſhed. Its leaves are large, long, and like thoſe of our flags, and they involve one another in a ſingular manner about their baſes. The flowers are ſmall, and they are in a ſhape ſomewhat like thoſe of certain of our orchiſes. They are mottled with purple and yellow: The ſeed is little and brown, the root creeps under the ſurface of the ground, and is of a yellow colour, and fragrant ſmell, and of a warm taſte.

The root is uſed: We have it at the druggiſts. It is of the ſame nature with zedoary, and has by ſome been called the *yellow zedoary*. It is a very good medicine in nervous and hyſteric complaints. It is warm and ſtrengthening to the ſtomach: It is remarkably good againſt the head-ach, and in fevers. It operates quick by urine and by ſweat.

Catmint. *Nepeta.*

A common wild plant about our hedges, but of very great virtues; it grows a yard high, and has broad whitiſh leaves, and whitiſh flowers like mint. The ſtalks are ſquare, whitiſh, hairy, and erect: The leaves ſtand two at a joint: They are broadeſt at the baſe, and terminate in an obtuſe end; they are a little indented at the edges, and of a whittiſh green on the upper ſide, and very white underneath. The flowers are ſmall and white; and they grow in a kind of ſpiked cluſters, ſurrounding the ſtalks at certain diſtances. The whole plant has a very ſtrong, and not very agreeable ſmell.

Catmint ſhould be gathered juſt when the flowers are opening and dried. It is an excellent woman's medicine; an infuſion of it is good againſt hyſteric complaints, vapours, and fits, and it moderately promotes the menſes: It is alſo good to promote the evacuations after delivery.

Great Celandine. *Shelidonium majus.*

A common wild plant with large leaves and yellow flowers: Which, when broken in any part, ſtalk, or leaves, emits a yellow juice. It grows three feet high, but the ſtalks are not very robuſt; they are round, green, and naked, with their joints. The leaves ſtand two at each joint, they are large, long, and deeply divided at the edges, and are of a yellowiſh green. The flowers are ſmall, but of a beautiful yel-

low, and they ſtand on long foot-ſtalks ſeveral together.

Celandine ſhould be uſed freſh, for it loſes the greateſt part of its virtue in drying. The juice is the beſt way of giving it; and this is an excellent medicine in the jaundice; It is alſo good againſt all obſtructions of the vicera, and if continued a time, will do great ſervice againſt the ſcurvy. The juice alſo is uſed ſucceſsfully for ſore eyes.

Little Celandine. *Chelidonium minus.*

The great and the little celandine are plants ſo perfectly different, that it is hard to conceive what could induce the old writers to call them both by the ſame name. They hardly agree in any thing, except it be that they have both yellow flowers. The great celandine approaches to the nature of the poppy; the ſmall celandine to that of the crow-foot; nor are they any more alike in virtues than in form.

Little celandine is a low plant, which is ſeen almoſt every where in damp places in ſpring, with broad deep green leaves, and gloſſy yellow flowers. It does not grow to any height. The leaves are an inch long, and nearly as broad; they ſomewhat reſemble thoſe of the garden hepaticas, and are of a dark green, and frequently ſpotted; they riſe ſingly from the root on long, ſlender, and naked ſtalks. The flowers riſe alſo ſingly from the root on long, ſlender, and naked ſtalks; they are as broad as a ſhilling, of a fine ſhining yellow colour, and compoſed of a number of leaves. The root is fibrous, and has ſmall white tuberous lumps connected to the ſtrings.

The roots are commended very much againſt the piles, the juice of them is to be taken inwardly; and ſome are very fond of an ointment made of the leaves; they chop them in pieces, and boil them in lard till they are criſp; then ſtrain off the lard, which is con-

verted into a fine green cooling ointment. The operation of the roots is by urine, but not violently.

Little Centaury. *Centaurium minus.*

A pretty wild plant which flowers in autumn, in our dry places. It is eight or ten inches high, the leaves are oblong, broad, and blunt at the point, the ſtalks are ſtiff, firm, and erect, and the flowers are of a fine pale red. There grows a cluſtre of leaves an inch long, or more, from the root; the ſtalks divide towards the top into ſeveral branches, and the flowers are long and ſlender, and ſtand in a cluſter.

This is a ſtomachic: its taſte is a pleaſant bitter, and given in infuſion; it ſtrengthens the ſtomach, creates an appetite, and is good alſo againſt obſtructions of the liver and ſpleen. It is on this laſt account greatly recommended in jaundices; and the country people cure agues with it dried and powdered.

As there are a greater and leſſer celandine, there is alſo a great as well as this little centaury, but the large kind is not a native of our country, nor uſed by us in medicine.

Chaste-Tree. *Agnus Caſtrus.*

A little ſhrub, native of Italy, and frequent in our gardens. It is five or ſix feet high; the trunk is rough, the branches are ſmooth, grey, tough, and long: The leaves are fingered, or ſpread like the fingers of one's hand: When opened, five, ſix, or ſeven of theſe diviſions ſtand on each ſtalk, they are of a deep green above, and whitiſh underneath; the flowers are ſmall and of a pale reddiſh hue; they ſtand in long looſe ſpikes, the fruit is as big as a pepper-corn.

The ſeeds of this ſhrub, were once ſuppoſed to allay venery, but no body regards that now. A decoction of the leaves and tops, is good againſt obſtructions of the liver.

THE BLACK CHERRY-TREE. *Coraſus Fructu negro.*

THIS is a well known tall tree, and well ſhaped. The leaves are broad, roundiſh, ſharp at the point, and indented round the edges. The flowers are white, the fruit is well enough known. The medicinal part of this is the kernel within the ſtone. This has been ſuppoſed good againſt apoplexies, palſies, and all nervous diſeaſes. The water diſtilled from it, was for this reaſon in conſtant uſe as a remedy for children's fits. But a better practice has now obtained: It is highly probable that this water occaſioned the diſorders it was given to remove. Laurel-water, when made of great ſtrength, we know to be a ſudden poiſon: When weak, it taſtes like black-cherry-water, and is not mortal: In the ſame manner black-cherry-water, which uſed to be given to children when weak drawn, has been found to be poiſonous when of great ſtrength. There is, therefore, the greateſt reaſon imaginable to ſuppoſe that in any degree of ſtrength, it may do miſchief. Very probably thouſands of children have died by this unſuſpected medicine.

The gum which hangs upon the branches of cherry-trees, is of the ſame nature with the gum arabic, and may be uſed for the ſame purpoſes, as in heat of urine, diſſolved in barley-water.

WINTER CHERRY. *Alkekengi.*

A VERY ſingular and pretty plant kept in our gardens; it grows two feet high, not very erect, nor much branched; the ſtalk is thick, ſtrong, and angulated: The leaves are large, broad, and ſharp-pointed; the flowers are moderately large and white, but with yellow threads in the middle; the fruit is a round red berry, of the bigneſs of a common red cherry,

contained in a green hollow huſk, round, and as big as a walnut.

The berries are the only part uſed, they are to be ſeparated from the huſks, and dried, and may be then given in powder or decoction. They are very good in ſtranguries, heat of urine, or the gravel: They alſo are given in jaundices, and dropſies: They will do good in theſe caſes, but are not to be depended upon alone.

Chervil. *Chærefolium.*

A SALAD herb, cultivated in gardens, but not without its medicinal virtue. It is like parſley in its manner of growth, but the leaves are more divided, and of a paler colour. The ſtalks are round, ſtriated, hollow, and of a pale green; they divide into ſeveral branches, and are about two feet high: The leaves on them are like thoſe from the root, but ſmaller. The flowers are bitter and white, they ſtand in large tufts at the tops of the branches. The ſeeds are large and ſmooth.

The roots of chervil work by urine, but moderately; they ſhould be given in decoction.

The Chesnut-Tree. *Caſtanea.*

A TALL, ſpreading, and beautiful tree. The bark is ſmooth and grey: The leaves long and moderately broad, deep, and beautifully indented round the edges, and of a fine ſtrong green. The flowers are a kind of catkins, like thoſe of willows, long and ſlender, and of a yellowiſh colour; the fruits are covered with a rough prickly ſhell, and under that, each particular cheſnut, has its firm brown coat, and a thin ſkin, of an auſtere taſte over the kernel.

This thin ſkin is the part uſed in medicine, it is to be ſeparated from the cheſnut, not too ripe, and dried:

It is a very fine aſtringent; it ſtops purgings and overflowings of the menſes.

Earth-Chesnut, or Earth-Nut. *Bulbocaſtanum.*

A common wild plant, which has the name from its root. This is of the bigneſs of a cheſnut, roundiſh, brown on the outſide, and white within, and of a ſweet taſte. The plant grows to a foot high: The leaves are divided into fine and numerous partitions: The ſtalk is firm, upright, round, ſtriated, and green; the flowers are white and little, but they grow in great tufts on the tops of the branches.

The root is the part uſed; it is to be roaſted in the manner of a cheſnut, and eaten. It is ſaid to have great virtues, as a provocative to venery, but this is not well confirmed.

Chick-weed. *Alſine Media.*

The commoneſt of all weeds, but not without its virtues. The right ſort to uſe in medicine (for there are ſeveral) is that which grows ſo common in our garden-beds: It is low and branched. The ſtalks are round, green, weak, and divided: They commonly lean on the ground. The leaves are ſhort and broad, of a pleaſant green, not dented at the edges, and pointed at the edges; theſe grow two at every joint. The flowers are white and ſmall.

The whole plant cut to pieces, and boiled in lard till it is criſp, converts the lard into a fine green cooling ointment. The juice, taken inwardly, is good againſt the ſcurvy.

The China-root Plant.

Smilax cujus Radix China officiorum.

A nailing plant, frequent in the Eaſt-Indies. It grows to ten or twelve feet in length, but the ſtalks

are weak, and unable to ſtand erect; they are ridged, of a brown colour, and ſet with hooked yellow prickles. The leaves are oblong and broad, largeſt at the ſtalk, and blunt at the points, of a ſhining green colour, and gloſſy ſurface; the flowers are ſmall and yellowiſh; the fruit is a round yellowiſh berry. The root is large, irregular, and knotty; brown on the outſide, and reddiſh within. This is the part uſed, they ſend it over to our druggiſts: It is a ſweetener of the blood, and is uſed in diet-drinks for the venereal diſeaſe, and the ſcurvy. It is alſo ſaid to be very good againſt the gout, taken for a long time together.

There is another kind of this root brought from America, paler on the outſide, and much of the ſame colour with the other within, ſome have ſuppoſed it of more virtue than the other, but moſt ſuppoſe it inferior, perhaps neither has much.

CHICH. *Cicer.*

A LITTLE plant of the pea-kind, ſown in ſome places for the fruit as peas. The plant is low and branched; the ſtalks are round and weak, and of a pale green; the leaves are like thoſe of the pea, but each little leaf is narrower, and of a paler green, and hairy like the ſtalk: The flowers are ſmall and white, and reſemble the pea-bloſſom. The pods are ſhort, thick, and hairy, and ſeldom contain more than two, often but one ſeed or chich in each.

They are eaten in ſome places, and they are gentle diuretics.

CINQEFOIL. *Pentaphyllum.*

A CREEPING wild plant common about way-ſides, and in paſtures. The ſtalks are round and ſmooth, and uſually of a reddiſh colour; they lie upon the ground, and take root at the joints; the leaves ſtand on long foot-ſtalks, five on each ſtalk, they are above an inch long, narrow, of a deep duſky green, and indent-

ed at the edges, the flowers alſo ſtand on long foot-ſtalks, they are yellow, and of the breadth of a ſhilling, very bright and beautiful. The root is large and long, and is covered with a brown rind.

The root is the part uſed, it ſhould be dug up in April, and the outer bark taken off and dried, the reſt is uſeleſs; this bark is to be given in powder for all ſorts of fluxes; it ſtops purgings, and the overflowings of the menſes; few drugs are of equal power.

The Cinnamon Tree. *Cinnamomum.*

A large tree frequent in the Eaſt, and not unlike the bay-tree in its flowers, fruit, leaves, or manner of growth, only larger. The bark is rough on the trunk and ſmooth on the branches: It has little taſte while freſh, but becomes aromatic and ſharp, in that degree we perceive by drying. The leaves are of the ſhape of bay-leaves, but twice as big; the flowers are ſmall and whitiſh; the berries are little, oblong, and of a bluiſh colour, ſpotted with white.

The root of the common tree ſmells ſtrongly of camphire, and a very fine kind of camphire is made from it in the Eaſt, the wood is white and inſipid. The leaves are fragrant.

The root is the only part uſed, and this is an excellent aſtringent in the bowels; it is cordial and good to promote appetite; it alſo promotes the menſes, though it acts as an aſtringent in other caſes.

The Winters-Bark Tree. *Cortex Winteranus.*

A bark called by many *winters-bark*, has been already deſcribed under its true name *canella alba*, in this place we are to enquire into the true winters-bark called by many writers *cinnamon*. The tree which affords it is a tree of twenty feet high, very ſpreading and full of branches: The bark is grey on the outſide, and brown within. The leaves are two

inches long, and an inch broad, ſmall at the ſtalk, and obtuſe at the end, and divided a little. The flowers are white and ſweet-ſcented, the fruit is a ſmall berry.

The bark is the part uſed, they ſend over the two rinds together: It is very fragrant, and of a hot aromatic taſte. It is a ſudorific and a cordial; it is excellent againſt the ſcurvy.

The Cistus Shrub (from which Labdanum is procured). *Ciſtus Ladanifera.*

A very pretty ſhrub frequent in the Greek iſlands, and in other warm climates. It is two or three feet high, very much branched, and has broad leaves, and beautiful large flowers. The trunk is rough; the twigs are reddiſh; the leaves are almoſt of the ſhape of thoſe of ſage; they ſtand two at every joint, and are of a dark green colour. The flowers are of the breadth of half a crown, and of a pale red colour. The gum labdanum is procured from this ſhrub, and is its only produce uſed in medicine. This is an exudation diſcharged from the leaves in the manner of manna, more than of any thing elſe. They get it off by drawing a parcel of leather thongs over the ſhrubs. It is not much uſed, but it is a good cephalic.

The Citron-Tree. *Citrea ſive malus Medica.*

A small tree with prickly branches, but very beautiful in its leaves, flowers, and fruit; the trunk is grey and rough; the twigs are green. The leaves are ſix inches long, and of a kind of oval figure, and of a moſt beautiful green colour. The flowers are white like thoſe of the lemon-tree, and the fruit reſembles a lemon; but it is larger and often full of protuberanes. The outer rind is of a pale yellow, and very fragrant, the inner rind is exceedingly thick and white; there is very little pulp, though the fruit be

ſo large. The juice is like that of the lemon; but the yellow outer rind is the only part uſed in medicine: This is an excellent ſtomachic, and of a very pleaſant flavour. The Barbadoes-water owes its taſte to the peel of this fruit; and there is a way of making a water very near equal to it in England, by the addition of ſpice to the freſh peels of good lemons; the method is as follows:

Put into a ſmall ſtill a gallon of fine molaſſes ſpirit, put to it ſix ounces of the peels of very fine lemons, and half an ounce of nutmegs, and one dram of cinnamon bruiſed; let them ſtand all night, then add two quarts of water, and faſten on the head; diſtil five pints and a half, and add to this a quart and half a pint of water, with five ounces of the fineſt ſugar diſſolved in it. This will be very nearly equal to the fineſt Barbadoes-water.

The Citrull. *Citrullus.*

A creeping plant of the melon kind, cultivated in many parts of Europe and the Eaſt. The branches or ſtalks are ten feet long, thick, angular, fleſhy, and hairy; they trail upon the ground unleſs ſupported. The leaves are large, and ſtand ſingly on long foot-ſtalks; they are divided deeply into five parts, and are hairy alſo, and of a pale green colour; the flowers are large and yellow, and very like thoſe of our cucumbers; the fruit is alſo like the melon and cucumber kinds, roundiſh, often flatted and compoſed of a fleſhy part under a thick rind, with ſeeds and juice within.

The ſeeds are the only part uſed; our druggiſts keep them: they are cooling, and they work by urine gently; they are beſt given in form of an emulſion, beat up with barley-water.

Clary. *Horminum.*

Clary is a common plant in our gardens, not very beautiful, but kept for its virtues. It grows two feet and a half high; the leaves are rough, and the flowers of a whitiſh blue. The ſtalks are thick, fleſhy, and upright; they are clammy to the touch, and a little hairy; the leaves are large, wrinkled, and of a duſky green, broad at the baſe, and ſmaller to the point, which is obtuſe; the flowers ſtand in long looſe ſpikes, they are diſpoſed in circles round the upper parts of the ſtalks, and are gaping and large, the cups in which they ſtand are robuſt, and in ſome degree prickly.

The whole herb is uſed freſh or dried. It is cordial, and in ſome degree aſtringent. It ſtrengthens the ſtomach, is good againſt head-achs, and ſtops the whites; but for this laſt purpoſe it is neceſſary to take it a long time; and there are many remedies more powerful.

There is a kind of wild clary on our ditch-banks, and in dry grounds, which is ſuppoſed to poſſeſs the ſame virtues with the garden kind. The ſeeds of this are put into the eyes to take out any little offenſive ſubſtance fallen into them. As ſoon as they are put in, they gather a coat of mucilage about them, and this catches hold of any little thing it meets with in the eye. Dr. *Parſons* has perfectly explained this in his *Book of Seeds.*

Cleavers. *Aparine.*

A wild herb common in all our hedges, and known by ſticking to peoples clothes as they touch it. The ſtalks are ſquare and very rough, two feet long, but weak and unable to ſupport themſelves, they climb among buſhes. The leaves are long and narrow, and of a pale green; they grow ſeveral at every joint, en-

compaſſing the ſtalk in the manner of the rowel of a ſpur; they are rough in the ſame manner with the ſtalk, and ſtick to every thing they touch; the flowers are ſmall and white; the ſeeds grow two together, and are roundiſh and rough like the reſt of the plant; the root is fibrous.

The juice of the freſh herb is uſed; it cools the body, and operates by urine; it is good againſt the ſcurvy, and all other outward diſorders. Some pretend it will cure the evil, but that is not true.

The Clove Bark-Tree. *Caſſia Caryophyllata.*

A tall and beautiful tree, native of the Weſt-Indies. The trunk is covered with a thick brown bark, that of the branches is paler and thinner. The arms ſpread abroad, and are not very regularly diſpoſed; the leaves are oblong, broad, and ſharp-pointed; they are like thoſe of the bay-tree, but twice as big, and of a deep green colour. The flowers are ſmall and blue, they are pointed with ſtreaks of orange-colour, and are of a fragrant ſmell; the fruit is roundiſh; we uſe the bark, which is taken from the larger and ſmaller branches, but that from the ſmaller is beſt. It is of a fragrant ſmell, and of a mixed taſte of cinnamon and cloves: The cinnamon-flavour is firſt perceived, but after that the taſte of cloves is predominant, and is ſo very ſtrong, that it ſeems to burn the mouth. It is excellent againſt the cholic, and it warms and ſtrengthens the ſtomach, and aſſiſts digeſtion: It is alſo a cordial, and in ſmall doſes, joined with other medicines, promotes ſweat. It is not much uſed fairly in practice, but many tricks are played with it by the chymiſts to imitate or adulterate the ſeveral productions of cloves and cinnamon, for it is cheaper than either.

The Clove July-Flower. *Caryophyllus Ruber.*

A common and very beautiful flower in our gardens; it has its name from the aromatic ſmell, which reſembles the clove-ſpice, and from the time of its flowering, which is in July. It is a carnation only of one colour, a deep and fine purple. The plant grows two feet high; the leaves are graſſy; the ſtalks are round and jointed; the flowers grow at the tops of the branches, and the whole plant beſides is of a bluiſh green.

The flowers are uſed; they are cordial, and good for diſorders of the head; they may be dried, and taken in powder, or in form of tea, but the beſt form is the ſyrup. This is made by pouring five pints of boiling water upon three pounds of the flowers picked from the huſks, and with the white heels cut off: After they have ſtood twelve hours, ſtraining off the clear liquor without preſſing, and diſſolving in it two pound of the fineſt ſugar to every pint. This makes the moſt beautiful and pleaſant of all ſyrups.

The Clove Spice-Tree. *Caryophyllus Aromaticus.*

A beautiful tree, native of warm countries. It grows twenty or thirty feet high, and very much branched. The bark is greyiſh; the leaves are like thoſe of the bay-tree, but twice as large; they are of a bright ſhining green, and ſtand upon long foot-ſtalks; the flowers are not very large, but of a beautiful blue colour, and the cups that contain them are oblong and firm; theſe are the cloves of the ſhops. They gather them ſoon after the flowers are fallen. When they ſuffer them to remain longer on the tree, they grow large, and ſwell into a fruit as big as an olive.

The cloves are excellent againſt diſorders of the head, and of the ſtomach; they are warm, cordial,

and ſtrengthening; they expel wind, and are a good remedy for the cholic. The oil of cloves is made from theſe by chymiſts; it cures the tooth-ach; a bit of lint being wetted with it, and laid to the tooth.

Cockle. *Pſeudomelanthium.*

A TALL, upright, and beautiful plant, wild in our corn-fields, with red flowers and narrow leaves. It is two feet high; the ſtalk is ſingle, ſlender, round, hairy, very firm, and perfectly upright; the leaves ſtand two at a joint, and are not very numerous; they are long, narrow, hairy, and of a bright green colour; the flowers ſtand ſingly, one at the top of each branch. They are very large, and of a beautiful red. They have an elegant cup, compoſed of five narrow hairy leaves, which are much longer than the flower. The ſeed veſſel is roundiſh, and the ſeeds are black. They are apt to be mixed among grain, and give the flour an ill taſte.

The ſeeds are uſed; they work by urine, and open all obſtructions; they promote the menſes, and are good in the dropſy and jaundice: the beſt way of giving them is powdered, and put into an electuary, to be taken for a continuance of time: For theſe medicines, whoſe virtues are againſt chronic diſeaſes, do not take effect at once. Many have diſcontinued them for that reaſon; and the world in general is, from the ſame cauſe, become fond of chymical medicines; but theſe are ſafer, and they are more to be depended upon; and if the two practices were fairly tried, chymical medicines would loſe their credit.

The Coculus Indi-Tree. *Arbor Coculos Indicos Ferens.*

A MODERATELY large tree, native of the warmer parts of the world. It is irregular in its growth, and full

of branches; the leaves are ſhort, broad, and of a heart-like ſhape; they are thick, fleſhy, ſmall, and of a duſky green; the flowers are ſmall and ſtand in cluſters; the fruits follow theſe, they are of the bigneſs of a large pea, roundiſh, but with a dent on one ſide, wrinkled, friable, and brown in colour, and of an ill ſmell.

The powder of theſe ſtrewed upon children's heads that have vermin deſtroys them, people alſo intoxicate fiſh by it. Make a pound of paſte with flower and water, and add a little red-lead to colour it; add to it two ounces of the coculus Indi powdered. See where roach and other fiſh riſe, and throw in the paſte in ſmall pieces, they will take it greedily, and they will be intoxicated. They will ſwim upon the ſurface with their belly upward, and may be taken out with the hands. They are not the worſe for eating.

The Codaga-Shrub. *Codaga Pali.*

A little ſhrub, frequent in the Eaſt Indies, and very beautiful as well as uſeful. It grows ten or fifteen feet high; the branches are brittle, and the wood is white. The leaves are long and narrow, not at all notched at the edges, and of a beautiful green on both ſides; the flowers are large and white, and ſomewhat reſemble thoſe of the roſe-bay, or nerium, of which ſome make it a kind. Each flower is ſucceeded by two long pods, which are joined at the ends, and twiſt one about the other; they are full of a cottony-matter about the ſeeds. The whole plant is full of a milky juice, which it yields plentifully when broken.

The bark is the only part uſed; it is but newly introduced into medicine, but may be had of the druggiſts; it is an excellent remedy for purgings. It is to be given in powder for three or four days, and

a vomit or bleeding before the uſe of it, as may be found neceſſary.

The Coffee-Tree. *Arbor Coffee Ferens.*

A beautiful ſhrub of the eaſtern part of the world, which we keep in many of our ſtoves, and which flowers and bears its fruit with us. It grows eight or ten feet high; the branches are ſlender and weak; the leaves are large, oblong, and broad, ſomewhat like thoſe of the bay-tree, but bigger and thin. The flowers are white, moderately large, and like jeſſamine; the fruit is a large berry, black when it is ripe, and in it are two ſeeds, which are what we call *coffee*; they are whitiſh, and of a diſagreeable taſte when raw.

Coffee helps digeſtion, and diſpels wind; and it works gently by urine. The beſt way of taking it is as we commonly drink it, and there are conſtitutions for which it is very proper.

Sea-Colewort, *or* Sea-Bindweed. *Soldanella.*

A pretty wild plant that we have on the ſea-coaſts in many places, and that deſerves to be much more known than it is as a medicine. The ſtalks are a foot long, but weak and unable to ſupport themſelves upright. They are round, and green or purpliſh; the leaves are roundiſh, but ſhaped a little heart-faſhioned at the bottom; they ſtand upon long foot-ſtalks, and are of a ſhining green; the flowers are large and red; they are of the ſhape of a bell; the roots are white and ſmall; a milky juice flows from the plant when any part of it is broken, eſpecially from the root.

The whole plant is to be gathered freſh when about flowering, and boiled in ale with ſome nutmeg and a clove or two, and taken in quantities proportioned to the perſon's ſtrength; it is a ſtrong purge, and it

ſometimes operates alſo by urine, but there is no harm in that. It is fitteſt for country people of robuſt conſtitutions, but it will cure dropſies and rheumatiſm. Nay, I have known a clap cured on a country fellow by only two doſes of it. The juice which ouzes from the ſtalk and roots may be ſaved; it hardens into a ſubſtance like ſcammony, and is an excellent purge.

COLTSFOOT. *Tuſſilago.*

A COMMON wild herb of excellent virtues, but ſo different in its ſpring and ſummer, as that it is ſcarce to be known for the ſame. The flowers appear in ſpring without the leaves; they grow on ſtalks ſix or eight inches high, round, thick, fleſhy, and of a reddiſh colour, on which there ſtand a kind of films inſtead of leaves. The flowers grow one at the top of each ſtalk; they are yellow, and as large as thoſe of dandelion, and like them.

The leaves come up after theſe are decayed; they are as broad as one's hand, roundiſh, and ſupported each on a thick hollowed ſtalk; they are green on the upper-ſide, and white and downy underneath. The flowers are not minded; the leaves only are uſed.

COLUMBINE. *Aquilegia.*

A COMMON garden flower, but a native alſo of our country. It grows two feet high; the leaves are divided into many parts, generally in a threefold order; the ſtalks are round, firm, upright, and a little hairy; the flowers are blue and large; the ſeeds are contained in a kind of horned capſules. The leaves and the ſeeds are uſed; a decoction of the leaves is ſaid to be good againſt ſore throats. The ſeeds open obſtructions, and are excellent in the jaundice, and other complaints from like cauſes.

COMFREY. *Symphytum.*

A COMMON wild plant of great virtue; it is frequent by ditch-ſides; it grows a foot and a half high; the leaves are large, long, not very broad, rough to the touch, and of a deep diſagreeable green; the ſtalks are green, thick, angulated, and upright; the flowers grow along the tops of the branches, and are white, ſometimes reddiſh, not very large, and hang often downwards. The root is thick, black, and irregular; when broken it is found to be white within, and full of a ſlimy juice. This root is the part uſed, and it is beſt freſh, but it may be beat up into a conſerve, with three times its weight of ſugar. It is a remedy for that terrible diſeaſe the whites. It is alſo good againſt ſpitting of blood, bloody fluxes, and purgings, and for inward bruiſes.

THE CONTRAYERVA-PLANT. *Contrayerva.*

A VERY ſingular plant, native of America, and not yet got into our gardens. It conſiſts only of leaves riſing from the root upon ſingle foot-ſtalks, and flowers of a ſingular kind, ſtanding alſo on ſingle and ſeparate foot-ſtalks, with no leaves upon them. The leaves are large, oblong, very broad, and deeply divided on each ſide, their colour is a duſky green, and the foot-ſtalks on which they ſtand are ſmall and whitiſh, and often bend under the weight of the leaf. The ſtalks which ſupport the flowers are ſhorter and weaker than theſe, and the flowers are of a very peculiar kind; they are diſpoſed together in a kind of flat form, and are very ſmall and inconſiderable. The bed on which they are ſituated is of an oval figure, and is called the *placenta* of the plant; it is of a pale colour and thin.

We are told of another plant of the ſame kind; the leaves of which are leſs divided, and the pla-

centa is ſquare, but the roots of both are allowed to be exactly alike, and it is therefore more probable, that this is not another plant, but the ſame in a different ſtage of growth.

We uſe the roots, our druggiſts keep them, and they are the principal ingredient in that famous powder, called from its being rolled up into balls, *lapis contrayerva*. It is an excellent cordial and ſudorific, good in fevers and in nervous caſes, and againſt indigeſtions, cholics, and weakneſſes of the ſtomach. It may be taken in powder, or in tincture, but it is better to give it alone, than with that mixture of crabs-claws and other uſeleſs ingredients, which go into the contrayerva-ſtone. In fevers and nervous diſorders it is beſt to give it in powder, in weakneſſes of the ſtomach it is beſt in tincture. It is alſo an excellent ingredient in bitter tinctures, and it is wonderful the preſent practice has not put it to that uſe. All the old preſcribers of forms for theſe things have put ſome warm root into them, but none is ſo proper as this; the moſt uſual has been the galangal, but that has a moſt diſagreeable flavour in tincture: The contrayerva has all the virtues expected to be found in that, and it is quite unexceptionable.

The Copal-Tree. *Arbor Copalifera.*

A large tree of South-America. It grows to a great heighth, ſtraight, and tolerably regular; the bark of the trunk is of a deep brown; the branches are bitter; the leaves are large and oblong, and they are blunt at the ends; they are deeply cut in at the edges, and if it were not that they are a great deal longer in proportion to their breadth, they would be very like thoſe of the oak; the flowers are moderately large, and full of threads; the fruit is round, and of a blood-red when ripe.

We uſe a reſin which ouzes from the bark of large trees of this ſpecies in great plenty, and is called *co-*

pal; it is of a pale yellow colour, ſomewhat brownish, and often colourleſs, and like gum-arabic; we have a way of calling it a gum, but it is truly a reſin; and the yellow pieces of it are ſo bright and tranſparent, that they very much reſemble the pureſt amber.

It is good againſt the whites, and againſt weakneſſes left after the venereal diſeaſe, but it is not ſo much uſed on theſe occaſions as it deſerves. It is excellent for making varniſhes, and what is commonly called *amber-varniſh*, among our artiſts, is made from it. Amber will make a very fine varniſh, better than that of copal, or any other kind, but it is dear.

We ſometimes ſee heads of canes of the colourleſs copal, which ſeem to be of amber, only they want its colour; theſe are made of the ſame reſin in the Eaſt Indies where it grows harder.

CORAL, *Corallium*.

A SEA plant, of the hardneſs of a ſtone, and with very little of the appearance of an herb. The red coral, which is the ſort uſed in medicine, grows to a foot or more in height, the trunk is as thick as a man's thumb, and the branches are numerous. It is faſtened to the rocks by a cruſt which ſpreads over them, and is covered all over with a cruſt alſo of a coarſe ſubſtance and ſtriated texture. Towards the tops there are flowers and ſeeds, but very ſmall; from theſe riſe the young plants. The ſeeds have a mucilaginous matter about them, which ſticks them to the rocks. The whole plant appears like a naked ſhrub, without leaves or viſible flowers.

It has been ſuppoſed lately that coral is made by ſmall inſects, but this is an error. Polypes live in coral as worms in wood, but theſe do not make the trees, nor the other coral. The plant-coral is to be reduced to a fine powder, by grinding it on a marble,

and then it is to be given to ſtop purgings, to deſtroy acid humours in the ſtomach, and to ſweeten the blood. They ſuppoſe it alſo a cordial. Probably for all its real uſes, chalk is a better medicine.

There are ſeveral ſorts of white coral, which have been ſometimes uſed in medicine, but all allow the red to be better, ſo that they are not kept in the ſhops.

CORALLINE. *Corallina.*

A LITTLE ſea-plant frequent about our own coaſts, and of a ſomewhat ſtony texture, but not like the red or white coral. It grows to three inches high, and is very much branched, and young ſhoots ariſe alſo from different parts of the branches; there are no leaves on it, nor viſible flowers, but the whole plant is compoſed of ſhort joints. It is commonly of a greeniſh or reddiſh colour, but when it has been thrown a time upon the ſhores, it bleaches and becomes white; it naturally grows to ſhells and pebbles. The beſt is the freſheſt, not that which is bleached.

It is given to children as a remedy againſt worms, a ſcruple or half a dram for a doſe.

CORIANDER. *Coriandrum.*

A SMALL plant, cultivated in France and Germany, for the ſake of its ſeed. It is two feet high, and has cluſters of white or reddiſh flowers upon the tops of the branches; the ſtalks are round, upright, and hollow, but have a pith in them; the leaves which grow from the root have rounded tops, thoſe on the ſtalks are divided into narrow parts; the ſeeds follow two after each flower, and they are half round.

The ſeed is the only part uſed; the whole plant, when freſh, has a bad ſmell, but as the ſeeds dry, they become ſweet and fragrant. They are excellent to diſpel wind, they warm and ſtrengthen the ſtomach, and aſſiſt digeſtion. It is good againſt pains

in the head, and has ſome virtue in ſtopping purgings, joined with other things.

The Cornel-Tree. *Cornus Mos.*

A GARDEN tree of the bigneſs of an apple-tree, and branched like one; the bark is greyiſh, the twigs are tough; the leaves are oblong, broad, and pointed, of a fine green colour, but not ſerrated at the edges; the flowers are ſmall and yellowiſh, the fruit is of the bigneſs of a cherry, but oblong, not round; it is red and fleſhy, of an aſtringent bark, and has a large ſtone. The fruit is ripe in autumn; the flowers appear early.

The fruit is the part uſed; it may be dried and uſed, the juice boiled down with ſugar, either way it is cooling and moderately aſtringent. It is a gentle pleaſant medicine in fevers with purgings.

There is a wild cornel-tree, called the *female cornel*, in our hedges, a ſhrub five feet high, with broad leaves and black berries: It is not uſed in medicine. In ſome parts of the Weſt-Indies they intoxicate fiſh with the bark of a ſhrub of this kind, by only putting a quantity of it into the water of a pond; we have not tried whether this of ours will do the ſame.

Corn-Marigold. *Chryſanthemum Segeſtum.*

A VERY beautiful wild plant growing in corn-fields, with large bluiſh leaves, and full of flowers like marigolds. It is two feet high, the ſtalks are numerous, round, ſtiff, tolerably upright, and branched; the leaves ſtand irregularly, and are long, very broad, and of a bluiſh green; they are ſmalleſt towards the baſe, and larger at the end, and they are deeply cut in at the ſides. The flowers are as broad as a half-crown, and of a very beautiful yellow; they have a cluſter of threads in the middle. The root is fibrous.

The flowers, freſh gathered and juſt opened, contain the greateſt virtue. They are good againſt all obſtructions, and work by urine. An infuſion of them given in the quantity of half a pint warm, three times a day, has been known to cure a jaundice, without any other medicine; the dried herb has the ſame virtue, but in a leſs degree.

COSTMARY. *Coſtus Hortorum.*

A GARDEN plant, kept more for its virtues than its beauty, but at preſent neglected. It grows a foot and a half high, and has cluſters of naked yellow flowers like tanſey. The ſtalks are firm, thick, green, and upright; the leaves are oblong, narrow, of a pale green, and beautifully ſerrated; the flowers conſiſt only of deep yellow threads.

It was once greatly eſteemed for ſtrengthening the ſtomach, and curing head-achs, and for opening obſtructions of the liver and ſpleen, but more ſeems to have been ſaid of it than it deſerved.

THE COSTUS-PLANT. *Coſtus.*

AN Indian plant, which bears two kinds of ſtalks, one for the leaves, and the other for the flowers and ſeeds; theſe both riſe from the ſame root, and often near one another.

The leaf-ſtalks are four feet high, thick, hollow, round, upright, and of a reddiſh colour.

The leaves are like thoſe of the reed-kind, long, narrow, and pointed at the edges, and they are of a bluiſh green colour. The ſtalks which bear the flowers are eight inches high, tender, ſoft, round, and, as it were, ſcaly. The flowers are ſmall and reddiſh, and they ſtand in a kind of ſpikes, intermixed with a great quantity of ſcaly leaves.

The root is the only part uſed; it is kept by our druggiſts; it is oblong and irregularly ſhaped. It is

a very good and ſafe diuretic; it always operates that way, ſometimes alſo by ſweat, and it opens obſtructions of the viſcera. But unleſs it be new and firm, it has no virtue.

The Cotton-Tree. *Goſſypium ſive Xylon.*

A small ſhrub, with brittle and numerous branches, and yellow flowers. It does not grow more than four feet high; the leaves are large, and divided each into five parts, and of a duſky green colour. The flowers are large and beautiful; they are of the bell-faſhioned kind, as broad as a half-crown, deep, of a yellow colour, and with a purple bottom; the ſeed-veſſels are large, and of a roundiſh figure, and they contain the cotton with the ſeeds among it. When ripe, they burſt open into three or four parts.

The ſeeds are uſed in medicine, but not ſo much as they deſerve; they are excellent in coughs, and all diſorders of the breaſt and lungs; they cauſe expectoration, and are very balſamic and reſtringent.

The Cotton-Thistle. *Acanthium.*

A tall and ſtately wild plant, common by our way-ſides, and known by its great white prickly leaves and red flowers. It is four or five feet high. The leaves which grow from the root are a foot and a half long, a foot broad, deeply indented at the edges, and beſet with yellowiſh thorns; they are of a whitiſh colour, and ſeem covered with a downy matter of the nature of cotton. The ſtalks are thick, round, firm, and upright, and winged with a ſort of leafy ſubſtances which riſe from them, and have the ſame ſort of prickles that are upon the leaves. The ordinary leaves upon the ſtalks are like thoſe which grow from the root, only they are more deeply indented, and more prickly; the flowers are purple, they ſtand in

long prickly heads, and make a beautiful appearance. The root is very long, thick, and white.

The root is the part uſed, and that ſhould be freſh gathered. It opens obſtructions, and is good againſt the jaundice, and in dropſies and other diſorders ariſing from obſtructions. It alſo moderately promotes the menſes. It may be dried and given in powder for the ſame purpoſes. But the virtues are much leſs.

Couch-Grass. *Gramen Caninum.*

A very troubleſome weed in fields and gardens, but very uſeful in medicine. Nature has made thoſe plants which may be moſt uſeful to us the moſt common, and the moſt difficult to be removed. Couch-graſs grows two feet high, and is a robuſt kind of graſs; the ſtalk is round and pointed; the leaves are graſſy, but broad, and of a freſh green colour; the ſpike at the top is like an ear of wheat, only thin and flat. It conſiſts of ten rows of grains. The root is white, ſlender, very long, and jointed, and it takes freſh hold at every joint; ſo that if but a piece is left in pulling it up, it grows and increaſes very quickly.

The roots are uſed, and they are to be freſh taken up and boiled. The decoction is excellent in the gravel and ſtone, it promotes urine ſtrongly, yet not forcibly or roughly. Taken for a continuance, the ſame decoction is good againſt obſtructions of the liver, and will cure the jaundice.

Cowslip. *Paralyſis.*

A pretty wild plant in our meadows. The leaves are broad, oblong, indented, rough, and of a whitiſh green colour; the ſtalks are round, upright, firm, thick, and downy; they are ſix or eight inches high, and are naked of leaves. At the top of each ſtand a

number of pretty yellow flowers, each upon a ſeparate foot-ſtalk, and in its own ſeparate cup.

The flowers are the part uſed. They have been celebrated very much againſt apoplexies, palſies, and other terrible diſeaſes, but at preſent in ſuch caſes we do not truſt ſuch remedies. They have a tendency to procure ſleep, and may be given in tea, or preſerved in form of a conſerve.

Cowslip of Jerusalem. *Pulmonaria Maculata.*

A low plant, but not without beauty, kept in gardens for the credit of its virtues, which are indeed more and greater than the preſent neglect of it would have one to ſuppoſe. It grows to eight or ten inches high; the leaves are long and broad, hairy, of a deep green, and ſpotted with white ſpots on the upper-ſide, but of a paler colour, and not ſpotted underneath. The ſtalks are ſlender, angulated, and hairy, and have ſmaller leaves on them, but of the ſame figure with thoſe from the root. The flowers are ſmall and reddiſh, and grow ſeveral in a cluſter at the top of the ſtalk. The root is fibrous.

The leaves are uſed, they ſhould be gathered before the ſtalks grow up, and dried; they are excellent in decoction for coughs, ſhortneſs of breath, and all diſorders of the lungs; taken in powder they ſtop the overflowings of the menſes; and when freſh bruiſed, and put into a new-made wound, they ſtop the bleeding, and heal it.

Cow-Wheat. *Crateogonum.*

A common wild plant in our woods and thickets, with narrow blackiſh leaves, and bright yellow flowers. It is eight or ten inches high. The ſtalks are ſquare and ſlender, very brittle, weak, and very ſeldom quite upright. The leaves are oblong and narrow, ſometimes of a duſky green colour, but ofetner

purpliſh or blackiſh; they are broadeſt at the baſe, and ſmall all the way to the point; and they are commonly, but not always, indented a little about the edges. The flowers ſtand, or rather hang, all on one ſide of the ſtalk in a kind of looſe ſpike; they are ſmall and yellow, and grow two together. The ſeeds which follow theſe are large, and have ſomething of the aſpect of wheat, from whence the plant has its odd name.

Theſe ſeeds are the part uſed; they are to be dried and given in powder, but in ſmall doſes. They have virtues which few ſeem to imagine; they are a high cordial and provocative to venery; but if given in too large a doſe, they occaſion the head-ach, and a ſtrange giddineſs. I knew an inſtance of a woman who had boiled the freſh tops of the plant in a large quantity of water as a remedy for the jaundice, I know not by what information, and having drank this in large draughts, was as a perſon drunk and out of her ſenſes; ſhe complained of numbneſs in her limbs, and ſeemed in danger of her life, but nature recovered her after a few hours, without other aſſiſtance.

THE CRAB-TREE. *Malus Sylveſtris.*

A COMMON hedge-ſhrub, and when in flower very beautiful. The trunk is uneven, and the bark rough; the branches are knotty, the wood is firm, and the bark of a dark colour; the leaves are broad and ſhort, the flowers are large and reddiſh, very beautiful and ſweet, and the fruit is a ſmall apple.

Verjuice is made from the crab, and it is a remedy for the falling down of the uvula, better than moſt other applications; it is alſo good againſt ſorethroats, and in all diſorders of the mouth.

CRANESBILL. *Geranium Robertianum.*

CRANESBILL is a little herb very frequent under hedges, and in uncultivated places: there are many kinds of it, but that which has moſt virtue, is the kind called *herb Robert*, this is a pretty and regularly growing plant. The ſtalks are a foot long, but they ſeldom ſtand quite upright; they are round, branched, and jointed, and are often red, as is frequently the whole plant: The leaves are large, and divided into a great number of parts, and they ſtand upon long-footed ſtalks, two at every joint. The flowers are moderately large, and of a bright red, they are very conſpicuous and pretty, the fruit that follows is long and ſlender, and has ſome reſemblance of the long beak of a bird, whence the name.

The whole plant is to be gathered, root and all, and dried for uſe; it is a moſt excellent aſtringent: Scarce any plant is equal to it. It may be given dried and powdered, or in decoction. It ſtops overflowings of the menſes, bloody ſtools, and all other bleedings.

It is to be obſerved that Nature ſeems to have ſet her ſtamp upon ſeveral herbs which have the virtue to ſtop bleedings; this and the tuſan. The two beſt remedies the fields afford for outward and inward bleedings, become all over as red as blood at a certain ſeaſon.

THE GARDEN-CRESS. *Naſturtium Horteneſe.*

A COMMON garden-plant raiſed for ſalads. It is two feet high: The ſtalk is round and firm, and of a bluiſh green; the leaves are divided into ſegments, and the flowers are ſmall and white; but the full grown plant is not ſeen at our tables; we eat only the leaves riſing immediately from the root. Theſe are large, finely, divided, of a bright green, and

ſharp; creſſes eaten in quantity are very good againſt the ſcurvy. The ſeeds open obſtructions.

Water-Cress. *Naſturtium Aquaticum.*

A WILD plant common with us in ditches, and ſhallow rivers. It is a foot high, the ſtalks are round, thick, but not very upright, of a pale green, and much branched; the leaves are of a freſh and bright green, divided in a winged manner, and obtuſe; the flowers are ſmall and white, and there is generally ſeen a kind of ſpike of the flowers, and ſeeds at the top of the ſtalks.

The leaves are uſed, they may be eaten in the manner of the garden-creſs, and are full as pleaſant, and they are excellent againſt the ſcurvy. The juice expreſſed from them has the ſame virtue, and works alſo powerfully by urine, and opens obſtructions.

Sciatica-Cress. *Iberis.*

A PRETTY wild plant, but not frequent in all parts of the kingdom. It is a foot high. The ſtalk is round, firm, and upright, of a pale green colour. The leaves are ſmall, longiſh, and of a pale green alſo, and the flowers ſtand at the top of the branches, into which the ſtalk divides in its upper part, they are white and little. The leaves that grow immediately from the root, are four inches long, narrow, and ſerrated about the edges, and of a deep green.

The leaves are uſed, they are recommended greatly in the ſciatica, or hip-gout; they are to be applied externally, and repeated as they grow dry. The beſt way is to beat them with a little lard. It is an approved remedy, and it is ſtrange that it is not more in uſe.

WART-CRESSES, *or* SWINES-CRESSES. *Coronopus Ruellii.*

A LITTLE wild plant very common about our fields and gardens. It ſpreads upon the ground. The ſtalks are five or ſix inches long, firm, and thick, but uſually flat on the earth, very much branched, and full of leaves. The leaves that riſe immediately from the root, are long and deeply divided, and thoſe on the ſtalks reſemble them, only they are ſmaller: they are of a deep gloſſy green, and not at all hairy. The flowers are ſmall and white, they ſtand at the tops of the branches and among the leaves, the ſeed-veſſels are ſmall and rough.

This is an excellent diuretic, ſafe, and yet very powerful. It is an ingredient in Mrs. Stephens's medicine, the juice may be taken, and it is good for the jaundice, and againſt all inward obſtructions, and againſt the ſcurvy; the leaves may alſo be eaten as ſalad, or dried and given in decoction.

CROSS-WORT. *Cruciata.*

A VERY pretty wild plant, but not very common: It grows a foot and a half high. The ſtalks are ſquare, hairy, weak, and of a pale green. The leaves are broad and ſhort, they ſtand four at every joint ſtar-faſhioned upon the ſtalk. The flowers are little and yellow; they ſtand in cluſters round the ſtalk at the joints, riſing from the inſertion of the leaves. It is to be found in dry places.

The whole plant is to be gathered when beginning to flower, and dried. A ſtrong decoction of it is a good reſtringent and ſtyptic; it ſtops purgings, even when there are bloody ſtools, and overflowings of the menſes.

MEDICAL LIBRARY

Crow-foot. *Ranuculus.*

A common wild plant: there are ſeveral ſorts of it, but the kind uſed in medicine, is that moſt common in meadows, and called *the common creeping crow-foot.* It grows a foot or more high, the ſtalks are firm, thick, branched, and of a pale green, but they ſeldom ſtand quite upright. The leaves on them are few, and divided into narrow ſegments; the flowers are yellow, of the breadth of a ſhilling, and of a fine ſhining colour; they ſtand at the tops of all the branches; the leaves which riſe from the root are large, divided in a threefold manner, and often ſpotted with white.

Some are ſo raſh as to mix a few leaves of this among ſalad, but it is very wrong; the plant is cauſtic and poiſonous. They are excellent, applied externally, in palſies and apoplexies, for they act quicker than cantharides in raiſing bliſters, and are more felt. It is a wonder they are not more uſed for this purpoſe, but we are at preſent ſo fond of foreign medicines, that theſe things are not minded.

There are two other kinds of crow-foot diſtinguiſhed as poiſons, though all of them are with ſome degree of juſtice branded with this name; but the two moſt pernicious kinds are that called *ſpearwort,* which has long, narrow, and undivided leaves; and that with very ſmall flowers and leaves ſomewhat like the diviſions of thoſe of ſmallage. Theſe both grow in watery places.

The Cubeb Plant. *Cubebæ.*

A clambering plant of the warm climates, but unknown in this part of the world, but now deſcribed by thoſe who have been where it grows. The ſtalks are weak, angulated, and reddiſh; the leaves are broad and ſhort, and the flowers ſmall, the fruit is of

the bigneſs of a pepper-corn, but a little oblong, and grows on a long and ſlender foot-ſtalk.

This fruit is the part uſed; the druggiſts keep it. It is a warm and pleaſant ſpice, good againſt weakneſſes of the ſtomach, in cholics, and in palſies, and all nervous diſorders. But it is ſeldom uſed alone.

The Cucumber Plant. *Cucumis Hortenſis.*

A creeping ſtraggling plant ſufficiently known. The ſtalks are a yard or two long, thick, but ſpread upon the ground, angulated and hairy. The leaves are broad, deeply indented, and very rough, and of a bluiſh green colour: The flowers are large and yellow. The fruit is long and thick; the ſeeds are uſed in medicine, and the fruit ſhould be ſuffered to ſtand till very ripe before they are gathered. They are cooling and diuretic, good againſt ſtrangueries, and all diſorders of the urinary paſſages; the beſt way of giving them is beat up to an emulſion with barley-water.

The Wild Cucumber. *Cucumis Aſininus.*

This, though called *wild*, is not a native of England. It ſpreads upon the ground in the manner of the other cucumber, and its branches grow to a conſiderable length: they are thick, hairy, angulated, and of a pale green, and tough. The leaves are broad at the baſe, and narrow at the point, ſerrated round the edges, and of a pale green above, and whitiſh below. The flowers are yellow, and moderately large; the fruit is of an oval figure, hairy, and full of juice. Care muſt be taken in touching it when ripe, for the ſharp juice flies out with violence.

The juice of the fruit is preſſed out, and a thick matter that ſubſides from it is ſeparated and dried; the druggiſts keep this, and call it *elatherium*, it is a violent purgative, but littled uſed.

CUCKOW-FLOWER, OR LADY'S SMOCK. *Cardamine.*

A VERY beautiful wild plant, frequent in our meadows in ſpring, and a great ornament to them. It grows a foot high. The leaves which riſe from the root, are winged very regularly and beautifully, and are ſpread in a circular manner, the ſtalk is round, thick, firm and upright. The leaves that grow on it are ſmaller, finely divided, and ſtand ſingly. The flowers grow in a little cluſter, on that ſpike on the top, and from the bottom of the leaves. They are large, of a fine white, often tinged with a bluſh of red.

The juice of the freſh leaves is to be uſed; it is an excellent diuretic, and is good in the gravel and all ſuppreſſions of urine. It alſo opens obſtructions, and is good in the jaundice and green-ſickneſs; and a courſe of it againſt the ſcurvy.

CUDWEED. *Gnaphalium.*

A COMMON wild plant, but ſingular in its appearance. There are many ſpecies of it. But that uſed in medicine is the kind called the *middle cudweed*, a herb impious. It has this laſt name from the whimſical obſervation of the young flowers riſing above the old ones, which is called *the ſon's growing above the father*. This cudweed is a little low plant, it ſeldom riſes to a foot high. The ſtalks are tough, firm, white, ſlender, and upright; they are very thick, ſet with leaves, which are ſmall, oblong, white, and pointed at the ends, and ſeldom lie very even. The flowers are a kind of brown or yellowiſh heads, ſtanding at the tops and in the diviſions of the ſtalks.

The herb bruiſed and applied to a freſh wound ſtops the bleeding; it may be alſo dried and given in decoction, in which form it is good againſt the whites, and will often ſtop violent purgings.

CUMMIN. *Cuminum.*

A PLANT of the umbelliferous kind, cultivated in every part of the Eaſt for the value of the ſeed. It grows a foot and a half high. The ſtalk is round, ſtriated, green, and hollow. The leaves are large, and very finely divided in the manner of thoſe of fennel. The flowers ſtand in large cluſters at the tops of the branches, and they are ſmall and white, with a bluſh of red. The ſeeds are long and ſtriated.

The ſeeds are uſed. Our druggiſts keep them. They are of a very diſagreeable flavour, but of excellent virtues; they are good againſt the cholic and wind in the ſtomach; and, applied outwardly, they will often remove pains in the ſide. They muſt be bruiſed, and a large quantity laid on.

THE BLACK CURRANT. *Ribeſia Nigra.*

THIS is a little ſhrub, of late brought very univerſally into our gardens. It grows three or four feet high. The branches are weak, and the bark is ſmooth. The leaves are large and broad, and divided in the manner of thoſe of the common currants; but they have a ſtrong ſmell. The flowers are greeniſh and hollow. The fruit is a large and round berry, black, and of a ſomewhat diſagreeable taſte, growing in the manner of the currants.

The juice of black currants, boiled up with ſugar to a jelly, is an excellent remedy againſt ſore throats.

LONG CYPERUS. *Cyperus longus.*

A WILD plant in our marſhes, fens, and other damp places. It is a foot and a half high. The leaves are a foot long or more, narrow, graſſy, and of a bright green colour, flat and ſharp at the ends. The ſtalk is triangular and green; there are no leaves on it,

except two or three ſmall ones at the top, from which there riſes a number of ſmall tufts or ſpikes of flowers. Theſe are brown, light, chaffy, and in all reſpects like thoſe of the other water-graſſes.

The root is uſed. It is long and brown, and when dried, is of a pleaſant ſmell, and aromatic warm taſte. It ſhould be taken up in ſpring. It is good againſt pains in the head, and it promotes urine.

Round Cyperus. *Cyperus Rotundus.*

A plant in many reſpects reſembling the other, but a native of the warmer countries. It grows two foot high. The leaves are very numerous, a foot and a half long, narrow, of a pale green colour, ſharp at the point, and ribbed all along like thoſe of graſs. The ſtalk is triangular, and the edges are ſharp; it is firm, upright, and often purpliſh, eſpecially towards the bottom. The flowers are chaffy, and they grow from the top of the ſtalk, with ſeveral ſmall and ſhort leaves ſet under them; they are brown and light. The root is compoſed of a great quantity of black fibres, to which there grows at certain diſtances roundiſh lumps. Theſe are the only parts uſed in medicine. Our druggiſts keep them. They are light, and of a pleaſant ſmell, and warm ſpicy taſte.

They are good in all nervous diſorders; they are beſt taken in infuſion, but as the virtues are much the ſame with the other, that is beſt, becauſe it may be had freſher.

The Cypress Tree. *Cupreſſus.*

A tree kept in our gardens, an evergreen, and ſingular in the manner of its growth. It riſes to twenty or thirty feet high, and is all the way thick beſet with branches. Theſe are largeſt towards the bottom, and ſmaller all the way up; ſo that the tree appears naturally of a conic figure. The bark is of a reddiſh brown. The leaves are ſmall and ſhort, they

cover all the twigs like ſcales, and are of a beautiful deep green. The flowers are ſmall and inconſiderable. The fruit is a kind of nut, of the bigneſs of a ſmall walnut, and of a brown colour and firm ſubſtance. When ripe, it divides into ſeveral parts, and the ſeeds fall out.

The fruit is the only part uſed. It is to be gathered before it burſts, and carefully dried and given in powder; five and twenty grains is the doſe. It is an excellent balſamic and ſtyptic. It ſtops the bleeding of the noſe, and is good againſt ſpitting of blood, bloody-fluxes, and overflowing of the menſes. We are not aware how powerful a remedy it is; few things are equal to it.

D.

Common Daffodil. *Narciſſus.*

A wild Engliſh plant, with narrow leaves and great yellow flowers, common in our gardens in its own form, and in a great variety of ſhapes that culture has given it. In its wild ſtate, it is about a foot high. The leaves are long narrow, graſſy, and of a green, and they are nearly as tall as the ſtalk. The ſtalk is roundiſh, but ſomewhat flatted and edged. The flower is large and ſingle; it ſtands at the top of the ſtalk, and by its weight preſſes it down a little. The root is round and white.

The freſh root is to be uſed, and it is very eaſy to have it always in readineſs in a garden; and very uſeful, for it has great virtues. Given internally, in a ſmall quantity, it acts as a vomit, and afterwards purges a little; and it is excellent againſt all obſtructions. The beſt way of giving it is in form of the juice preſſed out with ſome white-wine, but its prin-

cipal uſes are externally. The Eaſtern nations have a peculiar way of drying the thick roots of plants, eſpecially if they are full of a ſlimy juice as this is: They put them to ſoak in water, and then hang them over the ſteam of a pot in which rice is boiling; after this they ſtring them up, and they become in ſome degree tranſparent and horny. It would be worth while to try the method upon this root and ſome others of our own growth; which, becauſe of this ſlimy juice, we cannot well dry any other way; probably this would loſe its vomiting quality when dried, and would act only as an opener of obſtructions, in which caſe it might be given in repeated doſes; for at preſent no body will be prevailed upon to take it often.

The freſh root bruiſed and applied to freſh wounds heals them very ſuddenly. Applied to ſtrains and bruiſes, it is alſo excellent, taking away the ſwelling and pain.

The Great Daisy. *Bellis major.*

A beautiful and ſtately wild plant, which, if it were not frequent in our fields, would doubtleſs be eſteemed in gardens. It grows to a foot high. The ſtalks are angulated ſlender, but firm and upright: The leaves are oblong, narrow, dented round the edges, and of a beautiful deep green. The flowers ſtand on the tops of the branches; they are white, and an inch broad, very like the white China ſtarwort ſo much eſteemed in our gardens. The root is ſlender.

The flowers are the part uſed; they are to be gathered when newly opened, and dried, and may afterwards be given in powder or infuſion: They are good againſt coughs and ſhortneſs of breath, and in all diſorders of the lungs; they are balſamic and ſtrengthening.

The Little Daisy. *Bellis minor.*

A pretty wild plant, too common to need much deſcription, but too much neglected for its virtues. The leaves are oblong, broad, and obtuſe. The ſtalks are three or four inches high, and have no leaves. The flowers grow one on each ſtalk, and are of the breadth of a ſhilling, and whitiſh or reddiſh. The root is compoſed of a vaſt quantity of fibres.

The roots freſh-gathered, and given in a ſtrong decoction, are excellent againſt the ſcurvy; the uſe of them muſt be continued ſome time, but the event will make amends for the trouble. People give theſe roots boiled in milk to keep puppies from growing, but they have no effect.

Dandelion. *Dens Leonis.*

Another of our wild plants, too common to need much deſcription. The leaves are very long, ſomewhat broad, and deeply indented at the edges. The ſtalks are naked, hollow, green, upright, and ſix, eight, or ten inches high; one flower ſtands on each, which is large, yellow, and compoſed of a great quantity of leaves, and the ſeeds which follow this, have a downy matter affixed to them. The whole head of them appears globular; the root is long, large, and white; the whole plant is full of a milky juice, the root moſt of all; this runs from it when broken, and is bitteriſh, but not diſagreeable.

The root freſh gathered and boiled, makes an excellent decoction to promote urine, and bring away gravel. The leaves may be eaten as ſalad, when very young, and if taken this way in ſufficient quantity, they are good againſt the ſcurvy.

Red Darnel. *Lolium rubrum.*

A wild graſs, very common about way-ſides, and diſtinguiſhed by its ſtubborn ſtalks and low growth.

It is not above a foot high, often much leſs. The leaves are narrow, ſhort, and of a duſky green. The ſtalk is thick, reddiſh, ſomewhat flatted and upright. The ear is flat, and is compoſed of a double row of ſhort ſpikes: This as well as the ſtalk, is often of a purpliſh colour. The root is compoſed of a great quantity of whitiſh fibres.

The roots are to be uſed, and they are beſt dried and given in powder. They are a very excellent aſtringent, good againſt purging, overflowing of the menſes, and all other fluxes and bleedings; but the laſt operation is ſlow, and they muſt be continued. It is a medicine fitter, therefore, for habitual complaints of this kind, than ſudden illneſs.

There is an old opinion that the ſeeds of darnel, when by chance mixed with corn, and made into bread, which may happen, when it grows in cornfields, occaſions dizzineſs of the head, ſickneſs of the ſtomach, and all the bad effects of drunkenneſs: They are alſo ſaid to hurt the eyes; but we have very little aſſurance of theſe effects; nor are they very probable. They properly belong to another kind of darnel, diſtinguiſhed by the name of *white darnel;* which is a plant taller, and more common in cornfields than the red; but this is very much to be ſuſpected upon the face of the account. The ancients make frequent mention of this kind of darnel, growing to their great diſtreſs among the wheat; but by the accidental hints ſome have given about its height, and the ſhape of its ear, they ſeem to have meant the common dogs-graſs or couch-graſs, under that name; though others have ſeemed to underſtand the diſtinction. In this uncertainty, however, remains the matter about which particular kind of graſs was really accuſed of poſſeſſing theſe bad qualities: But it is moſt probable, that they belong to neither; and that Fancy, rather than any thing really known, gave birth to the opinion.

THE DATE TREE. *Palma Dactylifera.*

A TREE of the warmer countries, very unlike thoſe of our part of the world. The trunk is thick and tall, and is all the way up of the ſame bigneſs; it has no bark, but is covered with the rudiments of leaves, and the inner part of the trunk, when it is young, is eatable. At the top of the trunk ſtand a vaſt quantity of leaves, ſome erect and ſome drooping, and from the boſoms of theſe grow the flowers and the fruit; but it is remarkable, that the flowers grow upon the trees only, and the fruit on ſome others. If there be not a tree of the male kind, that is a flowering tree near the fruit of the female, it will never naturally ripen. In this caſe they cut off bunches of the flowers, and ſhake them over the head of the female tree, and this anſwers the purpoſe.

All plants have what may be called male and female parts in their flowers. The male parts are certain duſty particles: The female parts are the rudiments of the fruits. In ſome plants theſe are in the ſame flowers as in the tulip. Thoſe black grains which duſt the hands are the male part, and the green thing in the middle of them is the female: It becomes afterwards the fruit or ſeed-veſſel. In other plants, as melons, and many more, the male parts grow in ſome flowers, and the female parts in others, on the ſame plant: And in others, the male flowers and the female grow upon abſolutely different plants, but of the ſame kind. This is the caſe in the date-tree as we ſee, and it is the ſame, though we do not much regard it in hemp, ſpinage, and many others.

The fruit of the date is the only part uſed. It is as thick as a man's thumb, and nearly as long, of a ſweet taſte, and compoſed of a juicy pulp, in a tender ſkin, with a ſtone within it. They are ſtrengthen-

ing and ſomewhat aſtringent, but we do not much uſe them.

Devil's Bit. *Succiſa.*

A wild plant in our meadows, with ſlender ſtalks, and globous flowers. It grows two feet high. The ſtalks are round, firm, and upright, and divided into ſeveral branches: They have two little leaves at each joint. The flowers are as big as a ſmall walnut, and compoſed of many little ones; their colour is very ſtrong and beautiful. The leaves which grow from the root are four inches long, an inch broad, obtuſe, of a dark green, and a little hairy, not at all divided, or ſo much as indented at the edges. The roots are white, and compoſed of a thick head, which terminates abrubtly, as if it had been bitten or broken off, and of a multitude of fibres. The devil, as old women ſay, bit it away, envying mankind its virtues.

The leaves are to be gathered before the ſtalks appear. They are good againſt coughs, and the diſorders of the lungs, given in decoction. The root dried, and given in powder, promotes ſweat, and is a good medicine in fevers, but we neglect it.

Dill. *Anethum.*

An unbelliferous plant kept in our gardens, principally for the uſe of the kitchen. The ſtalk is round, ſtriated, hollow, upright, three feet high, and divided into a great many branches. The leaves are divided into numerous, narrow, and long parts, in the manner of fennel, but they are not ſo large. The flowers are ſmall and yellow; they ſtand in cluſters on the tops of the branches. The root is long. The ſeeds of dill are good againſt the cholic; and they are ſaid to be a ſpecific againſt the hiccough, but I have known them tried without ſucceſs.

Devils Bit



Dragons



Elecampane



Feverfew



Mill Mountain



Fox Gloves



DITTANDER. *Lepidium.*

A TALL plant, with broad leaves, and little white flowers; wild in ſome places, and frequent in our gardens. It grows a yard high. The ſtalks are round, firm, of a pale green, and very much branched. The leaves are large towards the bottom, ſmaller upwards, and the flowers ſtand in a kind of looſe ſpikes; the lower leaves are beautifully indented, the others ſcarce at all: The ſeeds are contained in little roundiſh capſules, and are of a hot and pungent taſte.

The leaves of dittander, freſh gathered and boiled in water, make a decoction that works by urine, and promotes the menſes: They are alſo good to promote the neceſſary diſcharges after delivery.

DITTANY OF CRETE. *Dictamnus Creticus.*

A VERY pretty little plant, native of the eaſt, and kept by the curious in ſome of our gardens. It has been famous for its virtues, but they ſtand more upon the credit of report than experience. It is ſix or eight inches high, the ſtalks are ſquare, ſlender, hard, woody, and branched; the leaves are ſhort, broad, and roundiſh; they ſtand two at every joint, and are covered with a white woolly matter; the flowers are ſmall and purple; they grow in oblong and ſlender and ſcaly heads, in the manner of thoſe of origanum; and theſe heads are themſelves very beautiful, being variegated with green and purple. The whole plant has a fragrant ſmell.

The leaves are uſed; our druggiſts keep them dried. The old writers attribute miracles to it in the cure of wounds; at preſent it is ſeldom uſed alone; but it is good in nervous diſorders, and it promotes the menſes, and ſtrengthens the ſtomach.

White Dittany. *Fraxinella.*

A very beautiful plant, native of many of the warmer parts of Europe; but with us kept only in gardens. It is three feet high, very much branched, and very beautiful; the ſtalks are round, thick, firm, and of a green or purpliſh colour; the leaves ſtand irregularly on them, and are like thoſe of the aſh-tree, only ſmaller; the flowers are large and elegant; they are of a pale red, white or ſtriped; and they ſtand in a kind of ſpikes at the top of the branches. The whole plant is covered in the ſummer months with a kind of balſam, which is glutinous to the touch, and of a very fragrant ſmell. This is ſo inflammable, that if a candle be brought near any part of the plant, it takes fire and goes off in a flaſh all over the plant. This does it no harm, and may be repeated after three or four days, a new quantity of the balſam being produced in that time. The roots of this plant are the only part uſed, and they are kept dried by the druggiſts. They are commended in fevers, and in nervous and hyſteric caſes, but their virtues are not great. I have found an infuſion of the tops of the plant a very pleaſant and excellent medicine in the gravel; it works powerfully by urine, and gives eaſe in thoſe cholicky pains which frequently attend upon that diſorder.

Sharp-pointed Dock. *Lapathum Folio acuto.*

A common plant, like the ordinary dock, but ſomewhat handſomer, and diſtinguiſhed by the figure of its leaves, which are ſharp-pointed, not obtuſe as in that, and are alſo ſomewhat narrower and longer. The plant grows three feet high; the ſtalks are erect, green, round, ſtriated, and branched; the leaves are of a fine green, ſmooth, neither crumpled on the ſurface, nor curled at the edges, and have large ribs;

the flowers are ſmall, at firſt greeniſh, then paler, and, laſtly, they dry and become brown. The root is long, thick, and of a tawny colour.

The root is the part uſed. It is excellent againſt the ſcurvy, and is one of the beſt things we know for what is called *ſweetening of the blood*. It is beſt given in diet-drinks and decoctions. Uſed outwardly, it cures the itch and other foulneſs of the ſkin; it ſhould be beat up with lard for this purpoſe.

GREAT WATER-DOCK. *Hydrolapathum Maximum.*

THIS is the largeſt of all the dock kinds; they have a general reſemblance of one another, but this is moſt of all like to the laſt deſcribed in its manner of growth, though vaſtly larger. It is frequent about waters, and is five or ſix feet high; the ſtalks are round, ſtriated, thick, and very upright, branched a little, and hollow. The leaves are vaſtly large, of a pale green colour, ſmooth, and ſharp at the point. The flowers are ſmall, and of a greeniſh colour, with ſome white threads, and they afterwards become brown. The root is large, long, and of a reddiſh brown.

It is a good remedy in the ſcurvy. The root contains the greateſt virtues, and is to be given in diet-drinks. The ſeeds of this, and all other docks, are aſtringent, and good againſt purgings.

GARDEN-DOCK, *called* MONKS-RHUBARB. *Lapathum Sativum, Patientia.*

A TALL plant, of the dock kind, a native of Italy, and kept in our gardens for its virtues. It grows ſix or ſeven feet high. The ſtalk is round, ſtriated, thick, upright, and firm. The leaves are very large, long, and are pointed at the extremity: They ſtand upon thick hollowed foot-ſtalks; and the main

ſtalk of the plant is alſo frequently red. The flowers are like thoſe of the other docks, greeniſh and white at firſt, but afterwards brown; but they are larger than in almoſt any other kind. The root is very large, long, and divided; the outer coat is of a browniſh yellow; within, it is yellow mixed with red. This is the part uſed. It has been called *monks-rhubarb* from its poſſeſſing ſome of the virtues of the true rhubarb; but it poſſeſſes them only in a ſlight degree; it is very little purgative, and leſs aſtringent: It works by urine as well as ſtool, and is good in the jaundice, and other diſorders ariſing from obſtructions.

There is another plant of the dock-kind called *baſtard rhubarb*, kept in ſome gardens, and miſtaken for this. The leaves of it are roundiſh. It has the ſame virtues with the monks-rhubarb, but in a much leſs degree, ſo that it is very wrong to uſe it in its place.

Dodder. *Cuſcuta.*

A very ſtrange and ſingular plant, but not uncommon with us. It conſiſts only of ſtalks and flowers, for there are no leaves, nor the leaſt reſemblance of any. The ſtalks are a foot or two in length, and they faſten themſelves to other plants; they are of a purpliſh colour, as thick as a ſmall pack-thread, and conſiderably tough and firm. Theſe wind themſelves about the branches of the plants, and entangle themſelves alſo with one another in ſuch a manner, that there is no end of the perplexity of tracing and unfolding them. The flowers grow in little heads, and are ſmall and reddiſh; four little ſeeds ſucceed to each of them.

Dodder is beſt freſh gathered; it is to be boiled in water with a little ginger and all-ſpice, and the decoction works by ſtool briſkly; it alſo opens obſtruc-

tions of the liver, and is good in the jaundice, and many other diſorders ariſing from the like cauſe.

The dodder which grows upon the garden-thyme, has been uſed to be preferred to the others, and has been ſuppoſed to poſſeſs peculiar virtues from the plant on which it grows; but this is imaginary: Experience ſhews it to be only a purge as the other, and weaker. The common dodder is preferable to it with us, becauſe we can gather it freſh, the other is imported, and we only have it dry; and it often loſes a great deal of its virtue in the hands of the druggiſt.

DOG-MERCURY. *Cynocrambe.*

A COMMON and poiſonous plant named here, not as a medicine, but that people who gather herbs, for whatever uſe, may guard againſt it. It is common under hedges, and in the earlier part of the year makes a pretty appearance. People might be very naturally tempted to eat of it among other ſpring herbs, for there is nothing forbidding in its aſpect; and what is much worſe, the authors moſt likely to be conſulted on ſuch an occaſion, might lead thoſe into it, whom they ought to have guarded againſt it.

It is about a foot high, and has but few leaves, but they are large. The ſtalk is round, thick, whitiſh, pointed, and a little hairy; the leaves ſtand principally towards the top, four, five, or ſix, ſeldom more: They are long, and conſiderably broad, ſharp-pointed, notched about the edges, and a little hairy. The flowers are inconſiderable: They ſtand in a kind of ſpikes at the tops of the ſtalks, and the ſeeds are on ſeparate plants, they are double and roundiſh. The herb has been from this divided into two kinds, male and female, but they have in earlier time given the diſtinctions of the ſex wrong. Thoſe which bear the ſpikes of flowers are the male

plants; the others, notwithſtanding any accidental reſemblance, female.

There is not a more fatal plant, native of our country, than this; many have been known to die by eating it boiled with their food; and probably many alſo whom we have not heard of: Yet the writers of Engliſh Herbals ſay nothing of this. Gerard, an honeſt and plain writer, but ignorant as dirt, ſays, "It is thought they agree with the other mercuries in nature." Theſe other mercuries are eatable; therefore, who would ſcruple on this account to eat alſo this. Johnſon, who put forth another edition of this book, and called it *Gerard emaculated*, from the amending the faults of the original author, ſays nothing to contradict it: But after ſome idle obſervations upon other herbs of the ſame name, but very different qualities, which yet he ſeems to ſuppoſe of the ſame nature, leaves his reader to ſuppoſe, that he meant equally any of the kinds of mercury, for the purpoſes he names; and, like his predeceſſor Gerard, ſuppoſed them all to be alike; thoſe ſafe, and thoſe poiſonous. It is true, Mr. Ray, in his Synopſis of the Britiſh Plants, gives an account of it as a poiſon, and muſt ſufficiently warn all who read him, from the herb: But who reads him? His book in which this is mentioned is written in Latin; and thoſe who want the information cannot read it.

This is not only the caſe in one or two particulars, it is ſo in all. To ſpeak generally: The books, which contain real knowledge, are written in Latin, thro' an oſtentation of their authors to ſhew their learning, or a pride in having them read in other nations as well as here; and thoſe we have in Engliſh are ignorant, deſpiſed by the perſons of judgment, and fit only to miſlead. If they enumerate virtues, they give them at random, or give too many falſe among the true, that the reader knows not what to chooſe; or their real ignorance mingles poiſons with ſalads, as we ſee in the preſent inſtance. Nor is any more

regard to be paid to what they ſay of herbs, from certain great names they quote. Dioſcorides and Galen were indeed great phyſicians; but men like theſe are not qualified to profit from their labours. The names of plants have been changed ſo often ſince their time, that we do not know what they mean by ſeveral: And it is eaſy for ſuch ſad proficients as theſe to record of one plant what they ſpoke of another: Beſides, even in their beſt writings, there is a great deal of error and folly, as may be ſeen in a quotation of this Johnſon's from them, added to Gerard in this very chapter. Where ſpeaking of one of the kinds of mercury, diſtinguiſhed like this poiſonous kind into male and female, he ſays, "That the male kind conduces to the genera-" tion of boys, and the female of girls." Such is the matter, that a ſuperiority in one of theſe authors over the other, qualified him to add to his book! Such are the Engliſh books that are extant upon this ſubject! and ſuch the direction offered to the charitable, confounding eatable herbs with poiſons! This has been one great reaſon of writing the preſent book, that there may be one guide and direction at leaſt to be depended upon; and this its author has thought proper to ſay at large upon the immediate occaſion, rather than in a preface, becauſe there it muſt have been accompanied with a needleſs repetition, and perhaps would not have been obſerved by many who may have recourſe to the book.

Dog-Tooth. *Dens Caninus.*

A very pretty little plant, with two broad leaves, and a large drooping flower, common in Italy and Germany, and frequent in our gardens. It is five or ſix inches high. The ſtalk is round, ſlender, weak, and greeniſh towards the top, often white at the bottom. The leaves ſtand a little height above the ground; they are oblong, ſomewhat broad, of a beau-

tiful green, not at all dented at the edges, and blunt at the end; they incloſe the ſtalk at the baſe. The flower is large and white, but with a tinge of reddiſh; it hangs down, and is long, hollow, and very elegant. The root is roundiſh, and has ſome fibres growing from its bottom; it is full of a ſlimy juice.

The freſh gathered roots are uſed, for they dry very ill, and generally loſe their virtues entirely; they are good againſt worms in children, and take a ſurpriſing and ſpeedy effect againſt thoſe violent pains in the belly, which are owing to thoſe creatures. The beſt way of giving them is in the expreſſed juice; or if children will not take that, they may be boiled in milk, to which they give very little taſte. It is a powerful remedy, and a ſmall doſe will take effect, eſpecially of the juice, ſo that it is beſt to begin with very little, and as that is well borne, to increaſe the quantity.

Dragons. *Dracontium.*

A fine tall and beautiful plant, kept in gardens for its uſe in medicine, as well as for its appearance. It is four feet high. The ſtalk is thick, round, and firm, perfectly ſmooth, and painted on the ſurface with ſeveral colours, purple, white, green, and others. The leaves are very large, and ſtand on long foot-ſtalks; they are of a deep and ſtrong green, and each is divided into ſeveral portions in the manner of fingers. The flower is like that of the common arum or cuckow-pint: It is contained in a hollow green caſe, of a deep purple within, and the piſtil is uſually alſo of a deep purple; after this has fallen, appear, as in the arum, large red berries in a cluſter. The whole plant is of an acrid and inſupportable taſte.

The whole plant is to be gathered when in flower, and dried; it may afterwards be given in decoction, powder, or otherwiſe. It was vaſtly eſteemed for

malignant fevers, and in the ſmall-pox, but it has of late loſt much of its credit, at preſent it is only uſed in ſome compoſitions.

THE DRAGONS-BLOOD-TREE. *Sanguis Draconis Arbor.*

A VERY beautiful tree, native of the Canaries, and ſome other places. It is of the palm-kind, and one of the handſomeſt of them. The trunk is naked all the way to the top, and there ſtand on its ſummit a great quantity of leaves, long, narrow, and pointed at the ends; of a bluiſh green colour, and not unlike the leaves of our flags. The fruit is round, and is of the bigneſs of a walnut with the green rind upon it.

The dragons-blood is a red friable reſin. Our druggiſts keep it: The beſt is in ſmall lumps; there is an inferior kind in cakes or maſſes. It is procured but cutting the trunk of this tree in the great heats. There are alſo two other kinds of palm that afford the ſame reſin. It is a very excellent aſtringent. It is uſeful in purgings and in the overflowings of the menſes, in ſpitting of blood, and all other occaſions of that kind. It may be given in powder.

DROPWORT. *Filipendula.*

A VERY pretty wild plant, with tufts of whitiſh flowers, and leaves finely divided. It grows two feet high; the ſtalk is round, ſtriated, upright, firm, and branched; the leaves are large, and divided into a great number of firm ſegments; they riſe principally from the root, and ſtand on ſlender foot-ſtalks. There are few leaves on the ſtalks, and they are ſmall. The flowers are little, but they ſtand in great tufts at the tops of the branches: They are white on the inſide, and often reddiſh on the outſide. The ſeeds are flattiſh, and grow ſeveral together. The

root is compoſed of a great number of ſmall lumps, faſtened together by filaments. This root is the part moſt uſed; it is good in fits of the gravel, for it promotes urine greatly and ſafely. For this purpoſe the juice ſhould be given, or a ſtrong decoction of the freſh root. When dried it may be given in powder to ſtop the whites and purgings; it is a gentle and ſafe aſtringent.

There are ſeveral other plants called in Engliſh *dropworts*, which are very different in their qualities, and one of them is poiſonous in a terrible degree; this laſt is called *hemlock dropwort*; care muſt therefore be taken that the right kind is uſed: But this is ſufficiently different from all the others; the flower is compoſed of ſix little leaves, and is full of yellow threads in the middle; the flowers of all the others are compoſed only of five leaves each. They are all umbelliferous plants, but this is not; the flowers grow in cluſters, but not in umbels: They grow like thoſe of the ulmaria or meadow-ſweet.

Duckweed. *Lenticula.*

A small green herb, conſiſting of ſingle little roundiſh leaves, which float upon the ſurface of the water, and ſend their roots into it for nouriſhment, without ſticking them into the mud. It is the ſmall green herb that covers almoſt all our ſtanding waters in ſummer. There are two other kinds of it, one with ſmaller leaves and many fibres from each, another with only one fibre from each leaf: Both theſe are green all over; and a third kind with larger leaves, which are purple underneath; but all theſe have the ſame virtue, and it is no matter which is taken. The juice is to be given; and it is to be continued ſeveral days.

It works powerfully by urine, and opens ob-

ſtructions of the liver: Jaundices have been cured by it ſingly.

Dwarf Elder. *Ebulus.*

A plant ſo much reſembling the common elder-tree, that it may be eaſily miſtaken for it till examined. It grows four or five feet high; the ſtalks are green, round, tender, and upright, and they have very much the appearance of the young ſhoots of elder, but there is no woody part from whence they riſe; the leaves are large, and compoſed of ſeveral pairs of others, as thoſe of elder, with an odd one at the end; but theſe are longer than in the elder, and they are ſerrated round the edges. The flowers are ſmall and white, but they ſtand in very large cluſters or umbels, juſt as thoſe of the elder; and they are ſucceeded by berries which are black when ripe, but that is a condition in which we ſeldom ſee them, for the birds are ſo fond of them, they eat them as they come to maturity. The root is white and creeping, and the whole plant dies down every year to the ground.

It is wild in England, but not common. It may be dried; but the beſt way of giving it is in juice. This works ſtrongly both by ſtool and urine, and has often cured dropſies.

Dyers-Weed. *Luteola.*

A very ſingular and pretty wild plant; it grows on dry banks and upon walls, and is known at ſight by its upright ſtalks and very long ſpikes of greeniſh yellow flowers. It grows to four feet or more in height. The ſtalk is thick, firm, channelled, and in a manner covered with leaves: They are ſmall in proportion to the bigneſs of the plant, oblong, narrow, and pointed at the ends, of a yellowiſh green colour, and

not ſerrated at the edges; a tuft of the ſame kind of leaves, but ſomewhat larger, ſurround the bottom of the ſtalk. The root is long and white; the flowers are ſmall, but very numerous.

The flowery tops of this plant dried, and given in decoction, are ſaid to be a remedy for the evil, but the report is not eſtabliſhed by any known experience.

E.

Elder. *Sambucus.*

A Common wild ſhrub; it grows irregularly. The ſtem or trunk is covered with a rough whitiſh bark, and the wood is firm, but there is a hollow within; this is ſmalleſt in the largeſt parts of the ſhrub, but it is never quite obliterated. The young ſhoots are thick, long, and green; they grow quick, and are often a yard long before they begin to change colour or grow woody. Theſe contain a large quantity of pith, and their bark as they ſtand becomes browniſh, and their under ſurface woody. The leaves are compoſed of ſeveral pairs of others, with an odd one at the end: The flowers ſtand in vaſt cluſters, or umbels, and are ſmall and white; they are ſucceeded by berries, which are black when ripe, and are full of a purple juice. There is another kind of elder, with berries white when they are ripe, and another with jagged leaves, but the common elder is the ſort to be uſed.

The inner bark of the elder is a ſtrong purge; and it has been known to cure dropſies, when taken in time, and often repeated. The flowers are made into an ointment, by boiling them in lard till they are almoſt criſp, and then pouring it off; this is cooling; the juice of the berries is boiled down with a little ſugar, or by ſome wholly without; and this, when it comes to the conſiſtence of honey, is the famous *rob of elder*, good in colds and ſore throats. A wine is made of the elder berries, which has the flavour of Frontigniac.

ELECAMPANE. *Enula Campana.*

A TALL and robuſt plant, wild in ſome parts of England, but kept in gardens for the uſes of medicine; it grows five feet high, and the flower is yellow, and very large; the ſtalk is round, thick, upright, very robuſt, and reddiſh; the leaves are long, large, and rough, and they are pointed at the ends, of a pale green colour. The flowers grow at the tops of the branches, and have ſomething like the appearance of a double ſun-flower. They are two inches in diameter, yellow, and very beautiful. The root is long and thick, and is brown on the outſide, and white within.

The root is the part uſed; we have it dried from Germany; but it is for moſt purpoſes better to take that freſh out of the garden, which we have here. Hardly any plant has more virtues. It is good in all diſorders of the breaſt and lungs, and it opens obſtructions: It operates by urine powerfully, and alſo by ſweat; and the juice of it will cure the itch, applied externally. Its greateſt virtue, however, is againſt coughs, and for this purpoſe it is beſt taken candied, provided that be well done. A little of it may in this way be held almoſt continually in the mouth, and ſwallowed gently, ſo that it will take

effect much better than by a larger doſe ſwallowed at once.

Elm. *Ulmus.*

A tall tree, native of our own country, and ſufficiently common in our hedges. It grows to a great bigneſs. The bark is browniſh, rough, and irregular; the twigs are alſo brown, and very tough. The leaves are ſmall, broad, ſhort, rough to the touch, and finely indented about the edges, and they terminate in a point. The flowers are not regarded; they appear before the leaves, and principally about the tops of the tree, and they are only thready; the ſeeds are flat.

The inner bark of the elm, boiled in water, makes one of the beſt gargles for a ſore throat that can be ſupplied by the whole liſt of medicines. It ſhould be ſweetened with the honey of roſes; it is extremely ſoft and healing, and yet at the ſame time very cleanſing.

There are two or three other kinds of elms common in garden hedges; they are brought from other countries, but the bark of the Engliſh rough elm is preferable to them all, as a medicine.

Endive. *Endivia.*

A common garden-plant kept for ſalads. It grows two feet high, and the flowers are blue, but we ſee it a thouſand times with only the leaves for once in flower, and theſe the gardeners have the art of twiſting and curling, and whitening in ſuch manner, that they are ſcarce to be known as belonging to the plant. Naturally they are long and narrow, blunt at the end, and deeply notched at the edges, and of a yellowiſh green colour; the ſtalks are round and firm, and the leaves that grow on them are like thoſe from the root, but ſmaller: The flowers ſtand at the tops of the

ſtalks and branches, they are blue, and in ſhape and ſtructure like thoſe of dandelion: They are very beautiful.

The juice of endive may be taken with great advantages as medicine; it cools the ſtomach, and operates by urine very powerfully; it alſo opens obſtructions of the viſcera. It is good againſt the jaundice, and, conſtantly taken for ſome time, againſt the ſcurvy.

ERINGO. *Eryngium.*

A WILD plant, which grows with us by the ſea-ſide, and is kept alſo in gardens becauſe of its virtues. It is prickly like a thiſtle, and the whole plant appears not green, but whitiſh. The ſtalk is firm, woody, round, ſtriated, and thick, not very upright, branched, and ſpread irregularly about. The leaves are ſmall, and of a pale bluiſh green, approaching to white; they are broad, oblong, and jagged and prickly. The flowers grow in little heads at the tops of the ſtalks, and there ſtands a circle of ſmall leaves under them. The flowers, ſeparately taken, are ſmall, and of a pale greeniſh white, but the head of them is tolerably large. The root is long and ſlender, and of a pleaſant taſte.

This is the part uſed; the beſt way is to take them candied; they are good againſt coughs, and weakneſſes of all kinds. They have alſo cauſed noble virtues as a diuretic, and are good againſt the jaundice; for this laſt purpoſe, a decoction made from the freſh roots is beſt. They are balſamic as well as diuretic.

THE EUPHORBIUM PLANT. *Euphorbium.*

A VERY ſtrange plant, native of the hot countries, and unlike every thing that is known in this part of the world. It is ten or twelve feet high, and is of a

ſolid thick body, of a triangular, or elſe a ſquare figure, as thick as a man's leg, and is divided by knots placed at diſtances, ſo as to ſeem made up of ſeveral joints. The edges of the body are all beſet with very ſharp prickles; the plant itſelf is compoſed only of a pulpy ſoft matter, covered with a thick rind, of a green colour; it abounds with a milky juice, but ſo acrid, that there is no bearing a drop of it a moment on the tongue. The plant often conſiſts of one ſingle ſtem, ſuch as is juſt deſcribed, but frequently it ſends out ſeveral branches: Theſe are naked in the ſame manner as the main ſtem. All they have, beſide the prickles, are a kind of thin films, or membranes, ſmall, and growing from their baſes, but the plant is altogether without leaves. The flowers grow three together among the thorns; and the fruit is a veſſel containing three ſeeds.

The gum which ſweats out from this plant is uſed in medicine; it is yellowiſh, and comes forth in ſmall drops; its taſte is ſharp and inſupportable; it is a violent purge, and is recommended againſt dropſies, but we ſcarce ever preſcribe it, it is ſo very rough; it is ſometimes uſed outwardly among other things applied to the feet in violent fevers.

EYEBRIGHT. *Euphraſia.*

A VERY pretty low herb, common in our meadows, with woody ſtalks, and bright and little variegated flowers. It grows ſix or eight inches high. The ſtalks are round, thick, firm, and very hard; the leaves are flat, broad, and deeply indented at the edges; and they are of a bright ſhining green. The flowers are little, and they are very bright; their ground colour is white, and they are ſtreaked and ſpotted with black, and ſome other dark colours.

This plant has been always famous for dimneſs of ſight, but whether experience warrants the character that is given of it is uncertain. The juice is very diuretic.

F.

Fennel. *Fœniculum.*

A Common garden plant, kept for its uſe in the kitchen, rather than its medicinal virtues. It grows ſix or eight feet high. The ſtalk is round, hollow, and of a deep green colour; the leaves are large, and divided into a vaſt number of fine ſlender ſegments, and they are alſo of a deep or bluiſh green colour. The flowers ſtand at the tops of the branches, and are ſmall and yellow; but there grow large cluſters of them together; the ſeed is ſmall, dark coloured, and ſtriated, and is of a ſharp acrid taſte; the root is long and white.

The root is the part moſt uſed; a decoction made of it with common water, and given in large quantities, works by urine, and is good againſt the gravel, and in the jaundice.

Sweet-Fennel. *Fœniculum Dulce.*

A garden plant very like the common kind, but of a paler colour. It grows four feet high; the ſtalk is round, hollow, ſtriated, upright, and branched; and the leaves are large, and divided into a great number of fine ſegments, in the manner of thoſe of common fennel, but both theſe and the ſtalks are of a pale yellowiſh green colour, not ſo dark as in the other kind. The flowers are yellowiſh, and ſtand in ſmall cluſters or umbels; the ſeeds follow, two after each flower; and they are quite different from thoſe of the common fennel, in ſize, ſhape, colour, and taſte. They are long, ſlender, of a pale colour, a little crooked, and deeply ſtriated. Their taſte is ſweetiſh, and a little acrid.

As the roots are the part moſt uſed of the common fennel, the ſeeds are the only part uſed of this. They are excellent in the cholic, and are uſed externally, with ſucceſs, in poultices to ſwellings. The ſeeds of the common fennel are uſed by ſome, but they are very hot and acrid. Theſe are preferable for internal uſe.

Fennel-Flower. *Nigella.*

A SINGULAR and pretty plant kept in gardens. It grows a foot and half high. The ſtalk is firm, round, ſtriated, and upright, and hollow. The leaves are divided into a multitude of fine ſlender parts like thoſe of fennel, only very ſmall in compariſon, and thence it had the Engliſh name of *fennel-flower*; they ſtand irregularly on the ſtalks, and are of a pale green. The flowers ſtand at the tops of the branches; they are ſingular and pretty; the colour is whitiſh, and they are moderately large; the green leaves about them give them a very particular grace.

The juice of the plant, freſh gathered, is good for the head-ach; it is to be ſnuffed up the noſe, and it will occaſion ſneezing; inwardly taken it works by urine, and is good in the jaundice.

Hogs-Fennel. *Peucedanum.*

A WILD plant with divided leaves, and umbels of yellow flowers, and thence bearing a remote reſemblance of fennel. It grows two feet high; the ſtalk is round, ſtriated, hollow, upright, and branched. The leaves are like thoſe of fennel, but the diviſions are much broader, and they run in threes. The flowers are little and yellow, but the cluſters of them are large, and the ſeed is oblong and flat. At the top of the root there is always found a tuft of hairy matter. This is made up of the fibres of decayed leaves, but it has a ſingular appearance. The root

is large, long and brown, and this is the part uſed as a medicine. It is to be boiled in water, and the decoction drank night and morning; it diſſolves tough phlegm, and helps aſthmatic people; it alſo works by urine, and promotes the menſes, and is good in all obſtructions.

FOENUGREEK. *Fœnum Græcum.*

A PLANT of the trefoil kind, but ſingular in its manner of growth, cultivated in fields in many places for the ſake of the ſeed. It is emolient. It grows a foot and an half high; the ſtalks are round, ſtriated, and branched. The leaves are ſhort and broad: They ſtand three upon every ſtalk, as in the common trefoils, and are indented about the edges. The flowers are white and ſmall, and they reſemble a pea-bloſſom; the pods are flat, and in them is contained a quantity of yellow ſeeds of an irregular figure, and diſagreeable ſmell.

MALE-FERN. *Filix Mas.*

A COMMON weed growing at the roots of trees, and in dry ditches. It has no ſtalk for bearing of flowers, but ſeveral leaves riſe together from the root, and each of theſe is in itſelf a diſtinct plant. It is two feet high, and near a foot in breadth; the ſtalk is naked for ſix or eight inches, and thence is ſet on each ſide with a row of ribs or ſmaller ſtalks. Every one of which carries a double row of ſmaller leaves, with an odd one at the end; the whole together making up one great leaf, as in many of the umbelliferous plants.

On the backs of theſe ſmaller leaves, ſtand the ſeeds in round cluſters; they look brown and duſty. The root is long and thick, and the whole plant has a diſagreeable ſmell. The root is greatly recommended for curing the rickets in children. With what ſucceſs it would be hard to ſay.

Female-Fern. *Filix Fœmina.*

A tall and ſpreading plant, common on our heaths, and called by the country people *brakes*. It grows four feet high. The ſtalks are round, green, and ſmooth; the leaves are ſet on each ſide, and are ſubdivided. The whole may indeed be properly called only one leaf as in the male-fern; but it has more the appearance of a number, becauſe it is ſo ramoſe. The ſmall leaves or pinnules which go to make up the large one, are oblong, firm, hard, and of a deep green colour, and they are ſo ſpread that the whole plant is often three feet wide. On the edges of theſe little leaves ſtand the ſeeds in ſmall duſty cluſters. But they are not ſo frequent on this, as on the male-fern, for Nature has ſo well provided for the propagation of this plant by the roots, that the ſeeds are leſs neceſſary, and where it is ſo, they are always produced more ſparingly. A certain quantity of every ſpecies is to be kept up, but the earth is not to be overrun with any.

The roots of female-fern, freſh gathered, and made into a decoction, are a remedy againſt that long and flat worm in the bowels, called the *tape-worm*, no medicine deſtroys them ſo effectually.

Flowering-Fern. *Oſmunda Regalis.*

There is ſomething that at firſt ſight appears ſingular in the manner of this fern's flowering, but when particularly examined, it is not different in any thing material from the other. It grows three feet high, and the leaves are very regularly conſtructed, and very beautiful; they are compoſed in the manner of the other ferns, each of ſeveral ſmall ones, and theſe are broader and bigger than in any of the other kinds, not at all indented on the edges; and of a bluiſh green colour, and afterwards yellowiſh.

Many leaves ariſe from the ſame root, but only ſome few of them bear ſeeds. Theſe principally riſe about the middle, and the ſeeds ſtand only on the upper part: They cover the whole ſurface of the leaf, or nearly ſo in this part, and the little pinnules turn round inwards, and ſhew their backs rounded up. Theſe are brown, from being covered with the ſeeds, and they have ſo different an appearance from all the reſt of the plant, that they are called *flowers*. The root is long, and covered with fibres. The plant grows in boggy places, but it is not very common wild in England.

A decoction of the freſh roots promotes urine, and opens obſtructions of the liver and ſpleen; it is not much uſed, but I have known a jaundice cured by it, taken in the beginning.

FEVERFEW. *Matricaria.*

A COMMON wild plant, with divided leaves, and a multitude of ſmall flowers like daiſies; it grows about farm-yards. The ſtalk is round, hollow, upright, branched, and ſtriated, and grows two feet high. The leaves are large, divided into many ſmall ones, and thoſe roundiſh and indented; they are of a yelloviſh green colour, and particular ſmell. The flowers ſtand about the tops of the ſtalks, they are ſmall, white round the edges, and yelloviſh in the middle. The root is white, little, and inconſiderable.

The whole plant is to be uſed; it is beſt freſh, but it preſerves ſome virtue dried; it is to be given in tea, and it is excellent againſt hyſteric diſorders; it promotes the menſes.

THE FIG-TREE. *Ficus.*

A SHRUB ſufficiently known in our gardens. The trunk is thick, but irregular, and the branches, which are very numerous, grow without any ſort of

order. The leaves are very large, and of a deep blackiſh green, broad, divided deeply at the edges, and full of a milky juice. The flowers are contained within the fruit. The fig-tree produces fruit twice in the year; the firſt ſet in ſpring, the ſecond towards September, but theſe laſt never ripen with us. The dried figs of the grocers, are the fruit of the ſame tree in Spain and Portugal, but they grow larger there, and ripen better.

Our own figs are wholeſome fruit, and they are applied outwardly to ſwellings with ſucceſs; they ſoften and give eaſe while the matter is forming within.

Figwort. *Scrophularia.*

A TALL and regular growing wild plant, with ſmall deep purple flowers. It grows four feet high, and is common in our woods and ditches, where there is little water: There is another kind of it in wet places, called alſo *water-betony*, which is to be diſtinguiſhed from it by the round indentings of the leaves; it alſo grows in water, or juſt by it: The right figwort, only loves ſhade and dampneſs, but not abſolute wet. The ſtalk is ſquare, upright hollow, and very firm; the leaves ſtand two at each joint, oppoſite one to the other; they are large, broad at the baſe, narrow at the point, and ſharply indented; they ſtand on long foot-ſtalks, and they have the ſhape of the nettle leaf, but they are perfectly ſmooth, and of a ſhining colour; they are ſometimes green, but often brown, as is alſo the whole plant. The flowers are very ſmall and gaping, their colour is a blackiſh purple. The root is long, white, and full of little tubercles, it ſpreads a great way under the ſurface.

The juice of the freſh-gathered root is an excellent ſweetener of the blood taken in ſmall dozes, and for a long time together. The freſh roots bruiſed

and applied externally, are ſaid alſo to be excellent for the evil. They cool and give eaſe in the piles, applied as a poultice.

THE FIR-TREE. *Abies.*

A WILD tree in Germany and many other parts of Europe, but with us only kept in gardens. We have no kind of the fir native. What is called the *Scotch-fir*, is not a fir but a pine.

The fir-tree grows to a conſiderable height, and with great regularity. The trunk is covered with a rough and cracked bark, of a reſinous ſmell; the leaves are numerous, and ſtand very beautifully on the branches. They ſtand in two rows, one oppoſite to the other, and are oblong, but ſomewhat broad and flat. They are of a pale green, and of a whitiſh hue underneath. The tree is hence called the *ſilver-fir*, and from the diſpoſition of the leaves, the *yew-leaved fir*, for they grow as in the yew-tree. The fruit or cones ſtand upright; in this kind, they are long, thick, and brown.

The tops of this kind are great ſweeteners of the blood, and they work powerfully by urine; they are beſt given in diet-drinks, or brewed in the beer, which is commonly drank.

THE RED FIR-TREE, OR PITCH-TREE. *Picea.*

A TALL tree, but not ſo regular in its growth, or in the diſpoſition of its leaves as the other. The trunk is thick, the bark reddiſh, and the wood ſoft; the branches are numerous, and they ſtand irregularly; the leaves are oblong, narrow, and ſharp-pointed, and they do not grow in two even rows, as in the other, but ſtand irregularly on the twigs; the cones are long, ſlender, and hang downwards; the whole tree has a ſtrong reſinous ſmell.

The tops of this are boiled in diet-drinks againſt the ſcurvy as the other, but they make the liquor much more nauſeous; and not at all better for the intended purpoſes.

Pitch and tar are the produce of the fir-tree, as alſo the Straſburg and ſome other of the turpentines. The larch-tree and turpentine-tree, furniſhing the others, as will be ſeen in their places. The wood is piled in heaps, and lighted at the top, and the tar ſweats out at the lower parts. This being boiled, becomes hard, and is called *pitch.*

The turpentines are balſamic, and very powerful promoters of urine, but of theſe more in their places: The tar has been of late rendered famous by the water made from it; but it was a faſhionable remedy, and is now out of repute again.

SWEET-FLAG. *Acorus, Calamus Aromaticus Dictus.*

A COMMON wild plant that grows undiſtinguiſhed among the flags and ruſhes, by our ditch ſides. The old phyſicians meant another thing by *calamus aromaticus:* They gave this name to the dried ſtalks of a plant, but at preſent it is uſed as the name of the root of this. The ſweet flag grows three feet high, but conſiſts only of leaves without a ſtalk; they are long, narrow, and of a pale green colour: Among theſe there are commonly three or four in all reſpects like the reſt, but that they have a cluſter of flowers breaking out at one ſide, within five or ſix inches of the top. This is long, brown, and thick, and reſembles a catkin of a filbert-tree, only it is longer and thicker. The root is long, flattiſh, and creeping: It is of a ſtrong and rather unpleaſant ſmell when freſh, but it becomes very fragrant and aromatic in drying. Our own has its value, becauſe we can have it freſh, but the dried root is better had of the druggiſts; they have it from warmer countries, where it is more fragrant.

The juice of the freſh root of acorus is excellent to promote the menſes, it works by urine moderately, and gives no offence to the ſtomach. The dried root is cordial and ſudorific; it warms the ſtomach, and is good againſt indigeſtions and fevers.

Common Acorus, or Yellow Flags. *Acorus Adulterinus.*

A common plant in our ditches, and by river ſides, diſtinguiſhed by its blue-green, flag-like leaves, and its large yellow flowers, which in ſhape reſemble thoſe of the iris, or flower-de-luce. It grows three or four feet high; the ſtalk is roundiſh, but a little flatted, of a pale green, very erect, firm, and not branched; it only ſends out two or three ſhoots upwards from the boſom of the leaves; the leaves are a foot and a half long, narrow, flat, and ſharp at the edges; the flowers ſtand at the tops of the ſtalks, and are large and beautiful; the ſeeds are numerous, and are contained in large triangular veſſels; the root creeps.

The root of this is the only part uſed, ſome have confounded them with the true acorus-root, but they are called, by way of diſtinction, *falſe* or *baſtard acorus*; they are not at all like them in ſhape, colour, or qualities; they are of a reddiſh brown, have no ſmell, and are of an auſtere taſte; they are an excellent aſtringent; they ſhould be taken up in ſpring and dried, and afterwards given in powder; they ſtop fluxes and overflowings of the menſes.

Flax. *Linum.*

A very pretty, as a well as very uſeful plant, cultivated for the ſake of its ſeeds, as well as its ſtalks. It is three feet high, the ſtalk is round, ſlender, firm, and upright; the leaves are ſmall, oblong, and narrow, and they ſtand irregularly, but in great num-

bers on it; toward the top the ſtalk divides into three or four ſhort branches; and on theſe ſtand the flowers; they are large, and of a beautiful blue; each of theſe is ſucceeded by a roundiſh ſeed-veſſel, in which are a number of ſeeds.

This ſeed is what is called *linſeed*. A tea made of it is excellent in coughs and diſorders of the breaſt and lungs, and the ſeed bruiſed is alſo good in cataplaſms, and fomentations for ſwellings; the oil drawn from it is given in pleuriſies and peripneumonies, with great ſucceſs; and it is alſo excellent in the gravel and ſtone.

Purging Flax. *Linum Cathartıcum.*

A pretty little herb that grows abundantly in our hilly paſtures, in parks and warrens. It is eight inches high; the ſtalk is round, firm, and at the top divided into ſmall branches; the leaves are little, oblong, broad, and obtuſe, and they ſtand two at each joint; the flowers are ſmall and white, and the whole plant has very much the aſpect of ſome kind of chickweed, but the ſeed-veſſel being examined, it appears to be altogether of the flax kind; the root is ſmall and thready.

This little plant is a ſtrong but a ſafe purge; the country people boil it in ale, and cure themſelves of rheumatic pains, and a great many other obſtinate diſorders by it; they talk of it as a remedy for dropſies: Doubtleſs it is uſeful in all caſes where a ſtrong and briſk purgative is required.

Fleabane. *Conyza.*

A pretty wild plant frequent about damp places, with whitiſh leaves, and large yellow flowers in autumn: It is two feet high; the ſtalk is round and erect, very firm and ſtrong, and is often of a reddiſh colour; the leaves are numerous, and ſtand irregu-

larly; they are above an inch long, moderately broad, of a rough ſurface, and whitiſh green; the flowers ſtand at the top of the branches; they are broader than a ſhilling, and compoſed of many narrow petals; the whole plant has a diſagreeable ſmell.

It is diſputed whether this kind of fleabane, or another which is ſmaller, and has globous flowers, have the greater virtue, but moſt give it for this. The juice of the whole plant cures the itch, applied externally; and the very ſmell of the herb is ſaid to deſtroy fleas.

Fleawort. *Pſyllium.*

An herb of no great beauty, native of France, but kept in gardens here. It has narrow leaves, and inconſiderable flowers; it is a foot high; the ſtalks are weak, greeniſh, and a little hairy; the leaves ſtand two or more at every joint, for that is uncertain; they are long, very narrow, and alſo ſomewhat hairy: There riſe from the boſoms of theſe leaves, long naked ſtalks, on which ſtand a kind of ſpikes of little flowers, ſomewhat like the ſpikes of plantain, only ſhorter; two ſeeds ſucceed each flower, and they are ſmooth, blackiſh, and of the ſhape of fleas, whence the name; there are many flowers in each head. A mucilage is made of the ſeeds to cool the throat in fevers.

Flix-Weed. *Sophia Chirurgorum.*

A pretty wild plant, about our waſte places and farm-yards, conſpicuous for its leaves, if not much ſo for its flower. It grows two feet high; and the ſtalk is round, erect, very firm and ſtrong, and not much branched; the leaves are moderately large, and moſt beautifully divided into numerous ſmall ſegments, long and narrow; they ſtand irregularly upon the ſtalks; the flowers are ſmall and yellow;

they ſtand in a kind of ſpikes at the tops of the ſtalks: they are followed by ſhort pods; the whole plant is of a dark green.

The ſeeds are the part uſed; they are to be collected when juſt ripe, and boiled whole; the decoction cures the bloody-flux, and is good againſt the overflowing of the menſes.

Flower-Gentle. *Amaranthus.*

A garden-flower. There are many kinds of it; but that uſed in medicine, is the large one with the drooping purple ſpike. It grows to four feet high; the ſtalk is firm, round, and channelled, green ſometimes, but often red. The leaves are oblong and broad, even at the edges, and pointed at the ends; they are very large, and are often tinged with red; the flowers are purple, and they grow in long beautiful ſpikes hanging downwards.

The flowers are the part uſed; they are to be gathered when not quite full blown, and dried; they are good againſt purging and overflowing of the menſes, in powder or decoction.

Flower-de-Luce. *Iris.*

A common flower in our gardens. The plant grows three feet high; the leaves are a foot and a half long, narrow, flat, and in all reſpects like the leaves of flags, and of a bluiſh green; the ſtalks are round, or a little flatted, thick, firm, upright, and of a greener colour; the flowers are large, and of a deep blue; the root ſpreads about the ſurface and is thick, and of a browniſh colour, and marked with rings.

The juice of the freſh roots of this plant bruiſed with white-wine, is a ſtrong purge, it will ſometimes alſo vomit; but that is not hurtful, it is a cure for dropſies. Gordon, an old writer on phyſic, ſays, if a

dropſy can be cured by the hand of man, this root will effect it. I have found it true in practice.

Florentine Flower-de-Luce. *Iris Florentina.*

A plant kept alſo in our gardens, but not ſo frequently as the former; it ſcarce differs any thing from the common flower-de-luce, except that the flowers are white. The root ſpreads in the ſame manner, and the leaves are flaggy. The ſtalk is two feet or more in height, and the flower is as large as that of the blue kind, and perfectly of the ſame form.

The root of this kind when dried is fragrant; the druggiſts keep it: It is good againſt diſorders of the lungs, coughs, hoarſeneſs, and all that train of ills; and it promotes the menſes.

Fluellin. *Elatine.*

A low plant frequent in corn-fields, and conſpicuous for its pretty, though ſmall flower. The ſtalks are five or ſix inches long, round hairy, weak, and trailing upon the ground; the leaves are little, hairy, rounded, and placed irregularly; the flowers are very ſmall, but they are variegated with purple and yellow, both colours very bright; they have a heel behind, and each ſtands upon a hairy foot-ſtalk, ariſing from the bottom of the leaf.

There is another kind, the leaves of which have two ears at their baſe, in other reſpects they are the ſame, and they have the ſame virtues. The juice of either is cooling and aſtringent. It is given by the country people in the bloody-flux, and overflowing of the menſes.

Fools-Stones. *Satyrium ſive Orchis.*

A BEAUTIFUL wild plant in our meadows and paſtures in June. The leaves are long and ſpotted, and the flowers are purple. It grows ten inches high. The leaves are ſix inches long, and three quarters of an inch broad, of a very deep green, with large and irregular blotches of black in different parts. The ſtalk is round, thick, upright, ſingle, and fleſhy; it has two or three ſmaller leaves of the ſame figure, and at the top ſtand the flowers, in a ſpike of an inch and a half long; they are not very large, and of a ſhape different from the generality of flowers; their colour is a deep and gloſſy purple; but ſometimes they are white. The whole plant is juicy. The root conſiſts of two round bulbs, or two round lumps like a pair of teſticles, and is white and full of a ſlimy juice.

The root is the only part uſed. It is ſuppoſed to be a ſtrengthener of the parts of generation, and a promoter of venereal deſires; but with what truth one cannot ſay. Externally applied in cataplaſms, it is excellent in hard ſwellings. There are a great many other kinds of orchis in our meadows, but only this is uſed. The root called *ſalep* by our druggiſts, is brought from Turkey, and is the root of a plant of this kind. It is ſtrengthening and reſtorative, good in conſumptions and all decays.

Fox-Glove. *Digitalis.*

A VERY beautiful wild plant in our paſtures, and about wood-ſides. The leaves are whitiſh, and the flowers large and red. It is three feet high. The leaves are large, long, rough on the ſurface, pointed at the ends, and ſerated round the edges; the ſtalks are round, thick, firm, and upright, and of a white colour; the flowers hang down from the ſtalk, in a

kind of ſpike; they are hollow, red, large, and a little ſpotted with white; they are ſhaped like the end of the finger of a glove.

The plant boiled in ale, is taken by people of robuſt conſtitutions, for the rheumatiſm and other ſtubborn complaints; it works violently upwards and downwards; and cures alſo quartan agues, and, as is ſaid, the falling-ſickneſs. An ointment made of the flowers of fox-glove boiled in May-butter, has been long famous in ſcrophulous ſores.

THE FRANKINCENSE TREE. *Arbor Thurifera.*

A LARGE tree, as is ſaid, a native of the warmer countries, but we know very little of it. Thoſe who deſcribe it moſt, only ſay that the trunk is thick, the wood ſpongy, and the bark rough. The leaves they ſay are narrow, and of a pale green; but as to the flower and fruit, they are ſilent. Some ſay it is thorny.

All that we uſe is the dry reſin, which is of a yellowiſh white colour, and bitteriſh reſinous taſte, and ſtrong ſmell. Our druggiſts keep this. Whatever tree produces this, it is a noble balſam, diſſolved in the yolk of an egg, and made into an emulſion with barley-water; it will do good in conſumptions, when almoſt all other things fail. It were well if the common trifling practice in that fatal diſorder, would give way to the uſe of this great medicine.

FRENCH MERCURY. *Mercurialis Mas et Fœmina.*

A WILD plant, but not very frequent in England, conſpicuous for little elſe than that it has the male flowers on ſome plants, and the female flowers on others, in the manner of ſpinage, hemp, and ſome others, as has been explained already under the article DATE-TREE. It grows ten inches high; the ſtalks are angular, green, thick, but not firm, and ſtand but

moderately upright; the leaves are oblong, broadeſt in the middle, ſharp at the point, ſerrated at the edges, and of a deep green colour. The female plants produce two ſeeds growing together at the top of a little ſpike. The male produce only a ſpike of duſty flowers, without any ſeeds or fruit at all. But people commonly miſtake the matter, and call the female the male.

A decoction of the freſh gathered plant purges a little, and works by urine; it is cooling and good for hot conſtitutions and overfulneſs. The dried herb is uſed in decoctions for clyſters.

Frog Bit. *Morſus Ranæ.*

A little plant, not uncommon on waters, with round leaves, and ſmall white flowers. It has been, by the common writers, called a kind of *water-lily*, becauſe its leaves are round, and it floats upon the water, but it is as diſtinct as any thing can be, when we regard the flower. Duckweed has round leaves, and floats upon the water, and it might be called *water-lily* for that reaſon, if that were ſufficient. The leaves are of a roundiſh figure, and a duſky dark green colour: They are of the breadth of a crown-piece, and they riſe many together in tufts, from the ſame part of the ſtalk. This ſtalk runs along at a little diſtance under the ſurface of the water, and from it deſcend the roots, but they do not reach down into the mud, but play looſe like the fibres of duckweed in the water. The flowers ſtand ſingly upon ſlender foot-ſtalks; they are white, and compoſed of three leaves a piece, which give them a ſingular appearance.

The freſh leaves are uſed in outward applications, and are very cooling.

FUMITORY. *Fumaria.*

A PRETTY wild plant, with bluiſh divided leaves, and ſpikes of little purple flowers, common in our corn-fields in June and July. It grows ten inches high. The ſtalk is round, ſtriated, of a pale green, thick enough, but not very firm, or perfectly erect. The leaves are large, but they are divided into a vaſt number of little parts, which are blunt and rounded at the ends; their colour is a faint green. The flowers are ſmall and purple: They have a heel behind, and a number of them ſtand together in a kind of ſpike. The whole plant has little taſte.

The juice expreſſed from this plant is excellent againſt the ſcurvy. It opens obſtructions of the viſcera, and is good againſt the jaundice, and all other diſeaſes ariſing from obſtructions.

THE FURZE-BUSH. *Geniſta Spinoſa.*

A WILD buſh upon our heaths, and by road-ſides, too common to need much deſcription. The ſtem is thick, tough, and of a whitiſh colour, covered with fragments of an irregular kind. The branches are extremely numerous, and ſpread in ſuch a manner, that when the plant is left to itſelf, it forms a kind of globular or ſemi-globular tuft upon the ground. The thorns are very numerous and very ſharp, they ſtand as it were one upon another. The leaves are little, and of a pale green, and they fall off ſo quickly, that, for a great part of the year, we ſee the ſhrub without any. The flowers are yellow and beautiful, and the ſeeds are contained in pods. The root ſpreads a great way, and is not eaſily got up when the ſhrub has once thoroughly fixed itſelf. Every piece of it left in will ſend up a new plant.

The root and the ſeeds are uſed, but neither much. The ſeeds dried and powdered are aſtrin-

gent, and a proper ingredient in electuaries, among other things of that intention. The bark of the root is uſed freſh taken up, and is to be given in infuſion: It works by urine, and is good againſt the gravel; but we have ſo many better things of our own growth for the ſame purpoſe, that it is ſcarce worth while to meddle with it. It loſes its virtue by drying.

G.

The Galangal-Plant. *Galanga.*

A Wild plant in the eaſt, which grows by waters, and has ſome reſemblance to the generality of our water-plants in its leaves and manner of growth. It is two feet and a half high, and has white flowers; the roots ſpread about the ſurface, and are of an irregular ſhape; the leaves are a foot long, not half an inch broad, ſharp at the point and at the edges; the ſtalk is firm, thick, round, and of a purpliſh green; the flowers are ſmall, and of a ſnow white; they conſiſt of a larger upper lip, and a ſmaller tender one, each divided into three parts; the ſeed-veſſels are oblong, and have each three diviſions containing many ſeeds; the roots have a very acrid taſte, and are reddiſh: As we have two ſorts of galangal-roots at the druggiſts, it might be expected there ſhould be found two galangal-plants, but they are both the roots of the ſame.

The leſſer galangal is moſt uſed: It is a warm and fine ſtomachic; we put it in all bitter tinctures. Head-achs, which ariſe from diſorders in the ſtomach, are greatly relieved by this root. What is called *Engliſh galangal*, is the root of the long cyperus, deſcribed already in its place.

Garlic. *Allium.*

A PLANT kept in our gardens for its uſes in medicine, and in the kitchen. It grows two feet and a half high; the leaves are broad, long, and of a ſtrong green; the ſtalk is round, ſmooth, and firm, upright, and of a pale whitiſh or bluiſh colour; the flowers are white and ſmall, but they grow in a large tuft at the top of the ſtalk; the root is white, or a little reddiſh; it is compoſed of a great number of bulbs, or, as we call them, *cloves*, joined together, and covered with a common ſkin, and with fibres at the bottom. The whole plant has an extremely ſtrong ſmell, and an acrid and pungent taſte.

The root is to be boiled in water, and the decoction made into ſyrup with honey; and this is excellent in aſthmas, hoarſeneſs, and coughs, and in all difficulties of breathing.

Gentian. *Gentiana.*

A ROBUST and handſome plant, native of Germany, and kept with us in gardens. It grows two feet and a half high. The leaves that riſe from the root are oblong, broad, of a yellowiſh green colour, and pointed at the ends; the ſtalk is thick, firm, upright, and browniſh or yellowiſh. At every joint there ſtand two leaves like the others, only ſmaller; and towards the tops at every joint alſo, there ſtand a number of flowers: Theſe are ſmall, yellow, with a great lump in the middle, which is the rudiment of the ſeed-veſſel, and a great quantity of yellow threads

about it. The root is large, long, and often divided. It is of a browniſh colour on the outſide, and yellow within, and is of a very bitter taſte.

The root is uſed; our druggiſts keep it dry: It is the great bitter and ſtomachic of the modern practice. Garlian-root, and the peel of Seville oranges, make the common bitter tinctures and infuſions: Beſide ſtrengthening the ſtomach, and creating an appetite, theſe open obſtructions, and are good in moſt chronic diſorders. The powder of gentian will cure agues.

GERMANDER. *Chamædrys.*

A LITTLE plant, native of many parts of Europe, but with us kept in gardens. It grows a foot or more in height, but rarely ſtands quite upright. The ſtalks are ſquare, green, and a little hairy; the leaves ſtand two at each joint; they are oblong, deeply indented at the edges, of a firm ſubſtance, green on the upper-ſide, but hairy underneath. The flowers are ſmall and purple, like the flowers of the little dead-nettle. They ſtand in cluſters about the upper joints of the ſtalks, and appear in July.

Germander is an herb celebrated for many virtues. It is ſaid to be excellent againſt the gout and rheumatiſm: However that be, it promotes urine and the menſes, and is good in all obſtructions of the viſcera. The juice is the beſt way of giving it, but the infuſion is more frequent.

WATER GERMANDER. *Scordium.*

A LITTLE mean-looking plant, wild in ſome parts of England, but kept in gardens alſo for its virtues. The ſtalks are ſquare, hairy, of a duſky green, and ſo weak, that they ſeldom ſtand much up. They are eight or ten inches long. The leaves are ſhort, broad, and indented about the edges, but not ſharp-

ly, or deep as thoſe of the other germander: They are of a ſort of woolly ſoft appearance and touch, and of a duſky deep green colour. The flowers are very ſmall and red, and they ſtand at the upper joints of the ſtalks, in little parcels together. The whole plant has a ſtrong and diſagreeable ſmell.

The whole plant is to be uſed freſh or dried. It has been celebrated greatly as a ſudorific, and for its virtues againſt peſtilential fevers, but it is now little uſed.

GINGER. *Zinziber.*

AN Eaſt-India plant, found alſo in other places, and very ſingular in its growth. It produces two kinds of ſtalks, the one bearing the leaves, and the other only the flowers. The firſt grow two or three feet high, and are themſelves compoſed in a manner of the lower parts of leaves, ſo that they ſeem to be only bundles of leaves rolled together at the bottom. Theſe are long, narrow, and in ſome degree reſemble the leaves of our common flags; the other ſtalks are tender, ſoft, and about a foot high; they have no leaves on them, but only a kind of films, and at the tops they produce the flowers in a ſpike; theſe are ſmall, in ſhape like thoſe of our orchis, and of a mixed colour, purple, white, and yellow. The root ſpreads irregularly under the ſurface.

The root is the only part uſed: We have it dry at the grocers; but the beſt way of taking it is as it comes over from the Eaſt-Indies. It is a warm and fine ſtomachic, and diſpeller of wind; it aſſiſts digeſtion, and prevents or cures cholics. It is alſo an excellent addition to the rough purges, to prevent their griping in the operation.

GLADWYN. *Xyris Spatula fœtida.*

A WILD plant of the iris kind, of no great beauty, but not without its virtues. The root creeps about the ſurface, like that of the common flower-de-luce. The leaves are a foot long, narrow, and ſharp-pointed, and of a ſtrong and very peculiar ſmell; the ſtalks are round, firm, upright, and of a bluiſh green; the flowers are like thoſe of the common flower-de-luce, but ſmaller, and of a very dull colour. There is a little purple in the upper part of flower, and there are ſome veins and ſtreaks in the lower; but the reſt is of a dull dead hue, between grey and brown, and they have a faint and bad ſmell.

The juice of the root promotes urine, and the menſes. The dried root, in powder or infuſion, is good againſt all hyſteric diſorders, faintings, and pains. Outwardly, the freſh root is ſaid to be an excellent remedy for ſcrophulous ſwellings; but this we muſt take upon truſt.

GLASSWORT. *Kali.*

A COMMON wild plant on the ſea-coaſts of many parts of Europe, but not a native of our country; it is called *cochleated kali*, from the form of its ſeed-veſſels, which are twiſted in the manner of a ſnail's ſhell. It grows to a foot and a half in height. The ſtalk is round, thick, fleſhy, and brittle; the leaves are few, and they ſtand irregularly; they are oblong and blunted at the ends, and of a bluiſh green colour; the flowers are ſmall, inconſiderable, and yellow.

The juice of the freſh plant is ſaid to be an excellent diuretic; but we have no opportunities of knowing its virtues here. Some ſay the ſeed-veſſels have the ſame virtue, and give them in infuſion; but we

have better remedies of the ſame kind of our own growth. The whole plant is burnt for its fixed ſalt, which is uſed in making glaſs.

GOATS-BEARD. *Tragopogon.*

A COMMON wild plant, diſtinguiſhed in our meadows by its narrow and freſh green leaves, and the long leaves of the cup about its yellow flowers. It grows a foot and a half in height; the leaves are very narrow; they are broadeſt at the baſe, and ſmaller all the way to the point; the ſtalk is round, thick, firm, very upright, and towards the top divided into two or three branches; the flowers ſtand at the extremities of the ſtalks; they are of a beautiful pale yellow, very large, and ſurrounded by a cup, compoſed of long and narrow green leaves, which, for the greateſt part of the day, are cloſed over it, ſo that it ſeems only in bud; the ſeeds are winged with a fine white down, in the manner of thoſe of dandelion, and when ripe they ſtand upon the tops of the branches, in a round head, in the ſame manner; the root is long and white; and the whole plant is full of a milky juice, which, after it has been a little time expoſed to the air, becomes yellow and thick like cream.

The root is uſed. It is ſo pleaſant in taſte, that it may be eaten in the manner of carrots, and other roots at table, but it exceeds them all in its qualities. It is an excellent reſtorative, and will do great ſervice to people after long illneſſes: The beſt way of giving it for this purpoſe, is to boil it firſt in water, and then cutting it to pieces, boil it again in milk, which is to be rendered palatable in the uſual way; it becomes thus a moſt excellent medicine in the form of food.

Goats-Rue. *Gælega.*

A tall plant, native of Italy, but kept with us in gardens. It grows a yard high. The ſtalks are round, ſtriated, hollow, not very firm or ſtrong, and of a pale green colour; they are very much branched, and not altogether upright; the leaves are long and large; each is compoſed of ſeveral pairs of ſmaller leaves, with an odd one at the end of the rib; theſe are oblong, narrow, and of a yelloviſh green colour, thin, and not at all indented at the edges; the flowers are ſmall, and of a bluiſh and whitiſh colour; they ſtand a great many upon the ſame pedicle in a drooping poſture.

The whole plant is uſed. It is to be gathered when juſt come to flower, and dried, and afterwards given in infuſion: This gently promotes ſweat, and is good in fevers; ſo much is true of the virtues of this plant, but much more has been ſaid of it.

Golden-Rod. *Virga aurea.*

A very pretty wild plant, with tufts of yellow flowers, frequent on our heaths in autumn. It is two feet high. The ſtalk is firm, erect, round, and hairy; the leaves are long, broadeſt in the middle, indented at the edges, rough on the ſurface, hairy, and of a ſtrong green colour; the flowers are ſmall, and of a bright yellow, but they grow together in a ſort of thick and ſhort ſpikes, ſo that they are very conſpicuous; the root is long, brown, and of an auſtere taſte, as is alſo the whole plant.

The root taken up in ſpring and dried, is an excellent medicine given in powder for purgings, and for overflowing of the menſes, bloody ſtools, or any other hemorrhage whatſoever. The whole plant has been at all times famous as a vulnerary or wound herb, given in decoctions.

Golden Rod



Hares Foot



Hemp Agrimony



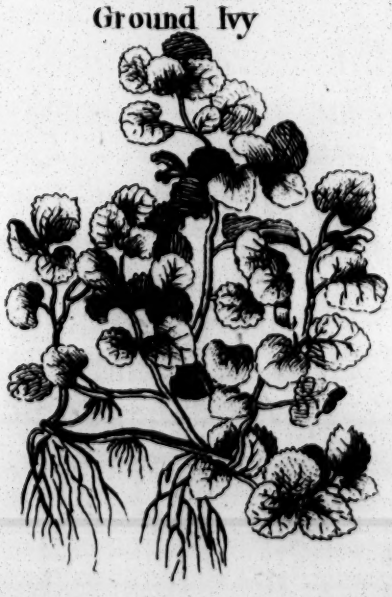
Horse Mint



Horehound



Ground Ivy



GOLD OF PLEASURE. *Myagrum.*

A VERY pretty plant, common in many parts of England, and known at ſight by the vaſt quantity of ſeed-veſſels. It is two feet high; the ſtalk is round, thick, firm, upright, and toward the top has a great many branches, all ſtanding upright; the leaves ſtand irregularly, and are not numerous; they are long, not very broad, and of a pale green; they are indented about the edges, and ſurround the ſtalk at the baſe; the flowers are little and white: the ſeed-veſſels are ſhort and roundiſh, and they ſtand in vaſt quantities, forming a kind of ſpikes all the way up to the tops of the branches, with a few flowers at the ſummit.

The freſh tops of the plant are to be uſed before it is run to ſeed. An infuſion of them ſweetened with honey is excellent for ſore throats and ulcerations of the mouth. The ſeeds yield a great quantity of oil on preſſing, and they are ſo plentiful, that it might ſeem worth while to cultivate the plant for them; the oil is pleaſant and well taſted.

THE GOURD. *Cucurbita.*

A LARGE plant of the melon or cucumber kind, kept in gardens. The ſtalks are ten or twelve feet long, thick, angular, rough, and hairy, but unable to ſupport themſelves upright: They trail upon the ground, or climb upon other things. The leaves are very large and broad, indented deeply, rough, and of a blackiſh green. The flowers are large and bell-faſhioned, white and downy on the inſide, and not altogether ſmooth on the out ſurface.

The fruit is large, and has a hard firm ſhell on the outſide, and is fleſhy and juicy within, with ſeeds in the manner of the melons; theſe are flat, and of an oblong ſhape, and hard.

Theſe ſeeds are the only part uſed: They are cooling and diuretic; they have this virtue in much the ſame degree with cucumber and melon ſeeds, and are given with them in emulſions.

The Bitter Gourd, called Bitter Apple. *Colocynthis.*

A native of the Eaſt, and of ſome other warm countries, kept in our curious gardens, and affording the famous drug called *coloquintide*. It is a ſmall plant of the gourd-kind. The ſtalks are thick, angular, hairy, and of a pale green; they cannot ſupport themſelves, but have a number of tendrils growing from them, by which they lay hold of every thing they come near. The leaves are large, broad, and very deeply divided at the edges; the flowers are of a pale yellow, large, and not unlike the flowers of melons. The fruit is a round gourd, of the bigneſs of the largeſt orange. The bark is hard, and the inner part ſpungy, with ſeeds among it: Theſe are flat, hard, and of an oval figure.

The fruit is the part uſed; they take off the outer ſhell, and ſend the dried pulp with the ſeeds among it: but theſe are to be ſeparated afterwards, and the pulp uſed alone. It is a very violent purge, but it may be given with proper caution, and it is excellent againſt the rheumatiſm, and violent habitual head-achs. Theſe rough purges will reach the cauſe of diſorders that the common gentle ones would not touch, and the preſent practice denies the uſe of many of the beſt medicines we know.

Gout-Wort. *Padagrara Herba Gerrardi.*

A common wild plant over-running our gardens, and when once it has taken root, very difficult to be got out again. It grows two feet high. The leaves which riſe from the roots are large, and they are

compoſed each of ſeveral ſmaller, ſet on a divided rib, in the manner of thoſe of angelica, of which they have ſome reſemblance. They are of a pale green colour, and are oblong and indented at the edges. The ſtalks are round, upright, and a little branched; they are ſlender, ſtriated, and green; the leaves on theſe are ſmaller, and conſiſt of fewer parts than thoſe that riſe from the root. The flowers are little and white, and they ſtand in ſmall round cluſters; each is ſucceeded by two flat ſeeds. The root creeps.

The root and freſh buds of the leaves are both uſed, but only externally; they are excellent in fomentations, and poultices for pains, and the plant has obtained its name from their ſingular efficacy againſt the pain of the gout, but it is not adviſeable to do any thing in that diſorder; the warm applications of this kind are of all others the leaſt dangerous. I have known a quantity of the roots and leaves boiled ſoft together, and applied to the hip in the ſciatica, keeping a freſh quantity hot to renew the other as it grew cold, and I have known good effects from it. Its uſe ſhould not be confined to this pain alone: It will ſucceed in others.

GROMVEL. *Lithoſpermon.*

A WILD plant of no great beauty, but diſtinguiſhed by its ſeeds, which are hard, gloſſy, and reſemble ſo many pearls as they ſtand in the open huſk. The plant grows a yard high. The ſtalk is round, thick, firm, very upright, and branched; the leaves are oblong, not very broad, rough and hairy, of a deep blackiſh green colour, and placed irregularly; the flowers are ſmall and white: When they are fallen off the cups remain, and contain theſe ſhining, and as it were ſtony ſeeds. The plant is frequent about hedges.

The ſeeds are the only part uſed: They work powerfully by urine, and are of great ſervice in the gravel, and all other obſtructions; they are beſt given in powder, with a great deal of barley-water at the ſame time.

Ground-Pine. *Chamæpitys.*

A very ſingular little wild plant, of a moſſy appearance, and reſinous ſmell: It grows four inches high; the ſtalks are hairy, and ſeldom ſtand upright; the leaves are very cloſe ſet, and the young ſhoots which grow from their boſoms perfectly obſcure the ſtalk; it ſeems a thick round tuft. Theſe leaves are ſhort, narrow, and divided into three parts at their ends, and they ſtand two at every joint of the ſtalk: They are rough and hairy like the ſtalk. The flowers are little and yellow, and they ſtand at the joints.

The whole plant is uſed, and it has great virtue: It is to be uſed dry in powder or infuſion. It works ſtrongly by urine, and promotes the menſes. It opens alſo all obſtructions of the liver and ſpleen, and is good in the jaundice, the rheumatiſm, and moſt of the chronic diſorders.

Groundsel. *Erigeron ſive Senecio.*

A common weed in our gardens, and upon walls, with little yellow flowers, and downy ſeeds: It grows eight inches high; the ſtalk is round, fleſhy, tolerably upright, and green or purpliſh; the leaves are oblong, broad, blunt, and divided at the edges. The flowers are ſmall and yellow, they grow in a ſort of long cups at the tops of the ſtalks and branches.

The juice of this herb is a gentle and very good emetic. It cauſes vomiting without any great irri-

tation or pain; and it is alſo good for cutaneous foulneſſes applied outwardly.

THE GUAIACUM-TREE. *Guaiacum.*

A GREAT tree, native of the Weſt-Indies, and to be ſeen in ſome of our curious gardens. The fruit is very large, and the branches are numerous; the leaves are ſmall, each is compoſed of two or three pair of ſmaller ones, with no odd leaf at the end of the rib. Theſe are ſhort, broad, roundiſh, and of a duſky green colour, the flowers are ſmall and yellow, but they grow in large cluſters together, ſo that the tree, when in bloom, makes a very pretty appearance.

The bark and wood are the only parts of the tree uſed; they are given in decoction, to promote ſweat, and ſo cleanſe the blood; they are excellent againſt the rheumatiſm, ſcurvy, and all other diſorders which ariſe from what is called *foulneſs of the blood*, but they muſt be taken for a conſiderable time; for theſe effects cannot be produced at once.

What is called *gum guaiacum* is the reſin poured from this tree; it is very acrid and pungent, and in the rheumatiſm, and many other caſes, is to be preferred to the wood itſelf.

H.

HARES-EARS. *Bupleuron Latifolium.*

A COMMON wild plant in ſome parts of Europe, but kept here in gardens. It is two feet or more in height. The leaves are long and broad, of a ſtiff ſubſtance, and ſomewhat hollowed, which gives them the appearance of a long and hollow ear, from whence they are named; they are of a whitiſh green colour, and the ribs upon them are high. There is a ſort with narrow leaves, but the broad-leaved kind is to be uſed in medicine. The ſtalks are round, upright, ſtriated, and toward the top branched. The flowers are little and yellow, and they ſtand at the tops of the branches in ſmall umbels. The root is long and thick, and has many fibres.

The young ſhoots of the leaves which grow from the root are eſteemed exceedingly, in places where they are native, for the cure of freſh wounds. They cut two or three of theſe off cloſe to the ground, and without bruiſing them, firſt cloſing the lips of the wound, they lay them on, one over the other, making a kind of compreſs: They then bind them on with linen rags, and never take off the dreſſing for three days, at the end of which time, in moſt caſes, they only find a ſcar; the cure being perfected. This is the ſubſtance of a pompous account ſent lately to a perſon of diſtinction with ſome leaves of the herb. There is no doubt of the truth, and

the ſurgeons will very well underſtand the nature of the cure: The diſcovery, however, is not new, for the herb has always been reckoned among the vulnerary plants; and ſome have pretended that it will ſingly cure the king's evil, but that is not to be expected; at the ſame time it may be proper to obſerve, that we do not want plants for the ſame uſe in England; we have the tutſan, which is to be applied in the ſame manner, and has the ſame effect; clowns all-heal, and many others named in their places.

HARES-FOOT. *Lagopus.*

A COMMON little plant, ſingular in the tuft, which contains its ſeeds, and whence it has its name, but not ſo much regarded as it ought to be for its virtues. The ſtalks are numerous, round, ſlender, and ſpread upon the ground; each is divided into a number of leſſer branches. The leaves are ſmall, oblong, narrow, of a pale green colour, and hairy; and they ſtand three together in the manner of the trefoils. The flowers are ſmall, and of a faint red; they ſtand ſeveral together in a ſhort ſpike, and the cups which receive them at the baſe are downy; this gives the ſingular aſpect of hairineſs to theſe heads, and their ſoftneſs to the touch.

The whole plant is to be uſed dried. It is an excellent aſtringent. It ſtops the overflowings of the menſes, and the whites, and is good againſt bloody fluxes and purgings of all kinds. The beſt way of taking it is in a ſtrong decoction, which muſt be continued ſome time.

HARTS-TONGUE. *Phyllitis Lingua Cervina.*

A WILD plant of the fern kind, that is conſiſting only of leaves without a ſtalk, the flowers and ſeeds being borne on the backs of them; but it has no re-

ſemblance to the ordinary ferns in its aſpect. Each leaf of harts-tongue is a ſeparate plant, but there riſe many from the ſame root. The foot-ſtalk is five inches long, the leaf an inch and a quarter broad, largeſt at the bottom, and ſmaller to the top, uſually ſimple, but ſometimes divided into two or more parts at the end. It is of a beautiful green at the upper-ſide, ſomewhat paler underneath, and the foot-ſtalk runs all along its middle in form of a very large rib. The ſeed-veſſels are diſpoſed in long brown ſtreaks on each ſide of this rib, on the under part of the leaf, and they are more conſpicuous than in moſt of the fern-kind. The plant grows in old wells, and in dark ditches, and is green all the year.

It is not much uſed, but deſerves to be more known. It is an excellent aſtringent, the juice of the plant, taken in ſmall quantities, and for a continuance of time, opens obſtructions of the liver and ſpleen, and will cure many of the moſt obſtinate chronic diſtempers.

HARTWORT. *Seſeli.*

A TALL, robuſt, and handſome plant, native of the Alps, but kept in our gardens. It grows five or ſix feet in height: The ſtalk is round, thick, ſtriated, and hollow, very firm and upright, and but little branched. The leaves are very large, and they are divided into a great number of parts, by fives and by threes; they are of a yellowiſh green; the flowers are ſmall and white, but they ſtand in great tufts or umbels at the tops of the ſtalks, the ſeeds follow two after each flower, and they are oblong, broad, and edged with a leafy border; they are of a dark colour, a ſtrong ſmell, and acrid taſte.

The ſeeds are the only part uſed; they promote the menſes, and the neceſſary diſcharges after delivery, and are an excellent warm and cordial medicine; they work alſo gently by urine, and cure

cholicky pains; they are to be given in powder or infuſion.

Hawthorn. *Spina alba.*

A shrub too common in our hedges to need much deſcription. The trunk is irregular, and ſeldom ſtraight, the branches are ſtrong, tough, and thorny, and the leaves of a gloſſy green, and beautifully divided. The flowers are white and beautiful; the fruit is ſmall.

The flowers and the dried fruit are uſed in medicine; they have the ſame virtue, they work by urine, and are good in the gravel, and all complaints of that kind: But there are ſo many better things for the ſame purpoſe at hand, that theſe are not much regarded.

Hedge-Mustard. *Eryſimum.*

A very common wild plant, and of no great beauty; it is frequent about old walls and in farm-yards, and is diſtinguiſhed by its long ſpikes of pods, which are lodged cloſe upon the ſtalk. It grows two feet in height; the ſtalk is round, firm, upright, but not always quite ſtraight, and a little branched; the leaves are of a pale green colour, hairy, oblong, and deeply indented at the edges; the flowers are ſmall and yellow, and they commonly ſtand at the tops of long ſpikes of pods, which have been flowers before them.

The whole plant is uſed; an infuſion of it freſh is the beſt way of taking it. This diſſolves tough phlegm, and is excellent in aſthmas, hoarſeneſſes, and other complaints of the breaſt. This ſimple infuſion, made into a ſyrup with honey, alſo anſwers the ſame purpoſe, and keeps all the year.

Hemlock. *Cicuta.*

A large, tall, and handſome umbelliferous plant, frequent in our hedges. It grows to ſix feet in height, the ſtalk is round, firm, hollow, and upright; it is of a dark green, and often ſtained with purple and yellow. The leaves are very large, and divided into very fine and numerous partitions; the flowers are ſmall and white, and ſtand in large cluſters on the tops of the ſtalks; the ſeeds are roundiſh. The whole plant has a ſtrong diſagreeable ſmell, and has been called poiſonous.

The roots are excellent in poultices for hard ſwellings.

Hemp. *Cannabis.*

Hemp is a tall plant, of a coarſe aſpect, cultivated in fields for its ſtalk. It grows five feet high, and is a robuſt plant; the ſtalk is thick and rigid; the leaves are numerous; they are large, and each compoſed of ſix or ſeven ſmaller; theſe are diſpoſed in the manner of fingers, and are of a deep green colour, rough, narrow, and ſerrated at the edges. The flowers in hemp grow in ſome plants, and the ſeeds on others. The flowers are inconſiderable and whitiſh, the ſeeds are large, roundiſh, grey, and have a white pulp within. The root is fibrous. The ſeeds are uſed in medicine; an emulſion made of them cures the jaundice.

Hemp Agrimony. *Eupatorium Cannabinum.*

A tall plant growing by waters, with tufts of red flowers and leaves, divided in the manner of thoſe of hemp. It grows five feet high, the ſtalk is round, thick, reddiſh, and very upright; the leaves are large, of a pale green, and fingered; they ſtand

two at each joint, the flowers grow in bunches as big as a man's fiſt, on the tops of the branches, and are of a bright red.

The root freſh gathered and boiled in ale, is uſed in ſome places as a purge, it operates ſtrongly, but without any ill effect, and dropſies are ſaid to have been cured by it ſingly.

Black Henbane. *Hyoſcyamus niger.*

A common wild plant, of a diſmal aſpect and diſagreeable ſmell. The farm-yards and ditch banks in moſt places are full of it; it grows two feet high; the ſtalk is thick, round, hairy, and clammy to the touch; but not very upright; the leaves are large, long, and broad, deeply ſerrated at the edges of a bluiſh green colour, hairy and clammy to the touch, and leaving a diſagreeable ſmell upon the hands; the flowers are large, and ſtand in rows on the tops of the branches, which often bend down; they are of a ſtrange yellowiſh brown colour, with pure veins; the ſeeds are numerous and brown.

The ſeeds are uſed; the reſt of the plant is eſteemed poiſonous; they are given in ſmall doſes againſt the bloody flux, and it is ſaid with great ſucceſs; I have not known it tried.

White Henbane. *Hyoſcyamus albus.*

A native of Italy and Germany, kept in our gardens: It is a foot high, and has ſomething of the aſpect of the black henbane, but not ſo diſmal: the ſtalk is round, thick, and of a pale green; the leaves are large, broad, but ſhort, and a little indented at the edges; they are of a yellowiſh green, and ſomewhat hairy; the flowers are ſmall and yellow, and the ſeeds are whitiſh.

The ſeeds of this kind are preferred to thoſe of the other, as leſs ſtrong in their effects, but if any harm

would happen from the internal uſe of the others, ſhould have known it, for they are generally ſold for them.

Good King Henry. *Bonus Henricus.*

A common wild plant, called alſo by ſome *Engliſh mercury*, by way of diſtinction from the other, which is called *French mercury*, and has been deſcribed already. This grows a foot high; the ſtalk is round and thick, but rarely ſtands quite upright; it is greeniſh and purpliſh, and is covered with a kind of grey powder, unctuous to the touch. The leaves are large, broad, and of the ſhape of an arrow-head; they ſtand on long ſtalks, and are of a pale green above, and greyiſh underneath, being there covered with this grey powder; the flowers are inconſiderable; they are of a greeniſh yellow, and they ſtand in long ſpikes at the tops of the branches; the plant is common in farm-yards.

The young ſhoots are eaten as ſpinage; the juice of the whole plant works gently and well by urine; and the dried herb is uſed in decoctions for clyſters.

The Hermodactyl Plant. *Hermodactylus.*

A beautiful plant having more the aſpect of a garden-flower, but it is common wild in the Eaſt. The root is roundiſh but flatted, and indented at bottom, and ſmaller at top. The leaves are large and broad; they are ſharp at the point, and of a deep green colour. The flowers are large, and of a whitiſh colour veined and ſtriped with purple; this is the beſt account we have received of the plant, but part of it comes with leſs authority than one would wiſh to things of this kind. This root is dried and ſent to us.

It is a gentle purgative, but it is leſs uſed at this

time than many others. It has been in more repute, perhaps with reaſon.

Holyhock. *Malva Arborea.*

A common garden-flower. It grows eight feet high; the ſtalk is round, firm, hairy, and upright; the leaves are large and roundiſh, of a deep green, hairy and cut in at the edges; the flowers are very large, red, white, or purple, and ſtand in a kind of long ſpike. The root is white, long, and thick, and is of a ſlimy nature, and not diſagreeable taſte.

This is the part uſed, a decoction of it operates by urine, and is good in the gravel; it has the ſame virtue with the mallow and marſhmallow, but in a middle degree between them, more than the mallow, and not ſo much as the other, nor is it ſo pleaſant.

Honewort. *Selinam. Sii Folis.*

A common plant in corn-fields, and dry places, with extremely beautiful leaves from the root, and little umbels of white flowers. It has its Engliſh name from its virtues. Painful ſwellings. are in ſome parts of the kingdom called *hones*, and the herb, from its ſingular effect in curing them, has received the name of *honewort*, that is hone-herb.

The root is long and white; there riſe from it early in the ſpring, half a dozen or more leaves, which lie ſpread upon the ground in an elegant manner, and are all that is generally obſerved of the plant. The ſtalks do not riſe till the end of ſummer, and theſe leaves decay by that time, ſo that they are not known to belong to it. Theſe leaves are eight inches long, and an inch and a half in breadth: They are compoſed each of a double row of ſmaller leaves, ſet on a common rib, with an odd leaf at the end; theſe are oblong, tolerably broad, and indented

in a beautiful manner. They are of a freſh green colour; they are the part of the plant moſt ſeen, and the part to be uſed, and they are not eaſily confounded with thoſe of any other plant, for there is ſcarce any that has what are nearly ſo handſome. The ſtalk is two feet high, round, hollow, upright, but not very firm and branched toward the top. The leaves on it are ſomewhat like thoſe from the root, but they have not the ſingularity of thoſe beautiful and numerous ſmall ones; the flowers are little and white, and the ſeeds are ſmall, flattiſh, ſtriated, and two of them follow every flower.

The leaves are to be uſed; they are to be freſh gathered, and beat in a marble-mortar into a kind of paſte; they are to be laid on a ſwelling that is red, painful, and threatens to have bad conſequences, and they diſperſe it. The application muſt be frequently renewed, and there are thoſe who ſpeak of its curing the evil.

Honey-Suckle. *Periclymenum.*

A beautiful wild ſhrub. The trunk is ſeldom more than an inch thick; the branches are very long and ſlender, of a reddiſh colour, brittle, and all of the ſame bigneſs. The leaves ſtand in pairs; they are broad, ſhort, blunt, of a dark dead green colour. The flowers grow in little cluſters; they are long, ſlender, tubular, and very fragrant, the berries are red.

The freſh leaves of honey-ſuckle given in decoction, are good againſt obſtructions of the liver and ſpleen; they work by urine, and they are alſo a good gargle for a ſore throat.

Honeywort. *Cerinthe.*

A juicy plant frequent wild in many parts of Europe, but with us kept in gardens. It has its

name from the ſweet taſte of the flowers. Almoſt all flowers have a drop of honey juice in their bottom: This is indeed the real ſubſtance of honey, for the bees only pick it out and get it together: The hollow flowers in general have more of it, or it is little preſerved in them than others, but ſcarce any in ſo great a degree as this plant named from it. It is two feet high, when kept erect, but if left to itſelf, it is very apt to lean upon the ground. The ſtalk is round, thick, juicy, and tender; the leaves are large, oblong, broad; they ſurround and incloſe the ſtalk at their baſe; they are of a bluiſh green colour, ſpotted or clouded irregularly with white, and they are full of a ſort of prickles. The flowers grow at the tops of the ſtalks, ſeveral together among the cluſters of leaves; they are hollow, oblong, and very wide, open at the mouth, their colour is yellow, variegated with purple in the middle, and they have a very pretty appearance.

The freſh gathered tops of the plant are to be uſed; an infuſion of them is cooling, and works by urine. It is good againſt ſcorbutic complaints, and in the jaundice.

THE HOP PLANT. *Lupulus.*

A CLIMBING plant, with very long ſtalks, common in our hedges, and cultivated alſo in many places. The ſtalks are roundiſh, rough to the touch, and of a purpliſh colour often, ſometimes only green. The leaves are very large, of a roundiſh figure, deeply indented, of a dark green colour, and very rough alſo to the touch. The fruit is ſufficiently known.

A decoction of freſh gathered hops is good againſt the jaundice; and the powder of hops dried in an oven, has been often known to cure agues, but upon this there is no abſolute dependence.

White Horehound. *Marrubium album.*

A white hoary plant, with little flowers in tufts round the ſtalks, frequent in dry places in many parts of the kingdom. It grows ſixteen inches high. The ſtalks are ſquare, and very robuſt, hairy, pale coloured, and upright. The leaves ſtand two at each joint, they are ſhort and broad, blunt at the ends, and widely indented at the edges, of a rough ſurface, and white colour. The flowers are white, and the points of their cups are prickly.

The beſt part of the plant, for medicinal uſe, is the tops of the young ſhoots, a decoction of theſe made very ſtrong, and boiled into a thin ſyrup with honey, is excellent againſt coughs, hoarſeneſſes of long ſtanding, and all diſorders of the lungs. The ſame decoction, if taken in large doſes, and for a continuance, promotes the menſes, and opens all obſtructions.

Black Horehound. *Ballote.*

A common wild plant, of a diſagreeable ſmell, thence alſo called by ſome ſtinking *horehound*. The ſtalks are ſquare, the leaves grow two at every joint, and are broad, ſhort, and of a blackiſh green colour, but in ſhape not unlike thoſe of the white kind. The flowers ſtand in cluſters round the ſtalk at the joints, as in the other, but they are red. The whole plant has a diſmal aſpect. The root is fibrous.

The plant is to be uſed freſh and dried, and it has more virtue than moſt imagine. It is to be given in form of tea, it promotes the menſes, and is ſuperior to moſt things as a remedy in hyſteric caſes, faintings, convulſions, and low-ſpiritedneſs, and all the train of thoſe diſorders.

HORSETAIL. *Equiſetum Segetale.*

A COMMON and yet very ſingular wild plant, frequent in our corn-fields, and compoſed of branches only, without leaves, there are alſo many other kinds of horſetail. It is a foot or more in height, and is extremely branched; the ſtalk is round, blunt, ridged, and angulated, and compoſed of joints. It is hollow, weak, and ſeldom ſupports itſelf tolerably upright. The branches are of the ſame ſtructure, and they are again branched; they grow ſeveral from every joint of the main ſtalk, and have others again, though in leſs number, growing from their joints. The whole plant is of a green colour, and when bruiſed, not of a very agreeable ſmell.

The whole plant is to be uſed, and it is beſt freſh; though it retains a great deal of its virtue dried. Given in decoction, it ſtops overflowings of the menſes, and bloody ſtools, and applied externally, it immediately ſtops the bleeding of wounds, and heals them.

HOUNDS TONGUE. *Cynogloſſum.*

A TALL and ſingular looking plant, frequent by our way-ſides, and diſtinguiſhed by its large whitiſh leaves, and ſmall purple flowers, as alſo by the particularity of its ſmell, which has been ſuppoſed to reſemble that of a kennel of hounds. It is two feet and a half high. The ſtalk is angulated, firm, and upright: The leaves are long, conſiderably broad, of a pale whitiſh or bluiſh green colour, ſharp at the points, and not at all ſerrated at the edges. The flowers are ſmall and of a deep purple: They grow along the tops of the branches, and are followed by rough ſeeds.

The root is the part uſed: It is long, thick, and brown, but whitiſh within; it is balſamic and aſtrin-

gent. Given in decoction, it is excellent againſt coughs ariſing from a thing ſharp humour. Dried and powdered, it is good againſt purgings, and ſtops the overflowings of the menſes.

Great Houseleek. *Sedum majus.*

A plant ſufficiently known, as well by its particular manner of growing, as for its place of growth. It forms itſelf into cluſters of a roundiſh figure, theſe are compoſed of leaves, which are largeſt toward the bottom, and ſmalleſt at the end; they are very thick and juicy, broad at the baſe, ſharp at the point, flat on the upper-ſide, a little rounded on the under, and ſomewhat hairy at their edges. The ſtalk grows to ten inches high, it is very thick, round, and juicy, upright, of a reddiſh colour, and divided at the top into a few branches. The leaves on it are thin and narrow; the flowers are numerous; they are red, and have a green head in their middle, which afterwards becomes a cluſter of ſeed-veſſels.

The leaves are the part uſed; they are applied externally in inflammations, and are very uſeful, when cooling things may be employed. The juice is alſo cooling and aſtringent taken inwardly, but it is rarely uſed. Some praiſe it greatly for the inflammations of the eyes.

There is another kind of houſeleek, very unlike this in form, but of the ſame virtues, this is called the *leſſer houſeleek*; the ſtalks are round, ſmall, and reddiſh, and grow ſix inches high; the leaves are long and rounded, not flat as other leaves are; and the flowers are white, and ſtand in kind of tufts, like umbels at the tops of the ſtalks. This grows on old walls, and the tops of houſes like the other.

The Least Housleek, or Wall-Pepper.
Sedum minimum Acre.

A common plant on old walls, of kin to the preceding, but very different both in face and virtues. The root is little, from this grow abundance of ſtalks; they are round, weak, and unable to ſupport themſelves; they ſpread every way about, and are ſix inches in length. The greateſt part of every ſtalk is covered with leaves, ſo that it appears a green ſubſtance, of the thickneſs of ones little finger; theſe leaves are ſhort and thick; they are of a fine green colour, and are broad at the baſe, and ſharp at the point. The flowers are little, and of a bright yellow; they grow in great numbers, from the tops of theſe branches, and are of the ſhape of thoſe of common houſeleek, and rounded by ſuch ſeed-veſſels.

The juice of this kind of houſeleek is excellent againſt the ſcurvy and all other diſeaſes ariſing from what is called *foulneſs of the blood.* It is ſaid that a continued courſe of it will cure the king's evil: but we want experience to ſupport this.

The Hypocist. *Hypociſtus.*

A very ſingular plant, native of the Grecian iſlands, and of ſome of the warmer parts of Europe. It is five inches high, and of a ſingular figure. It does not grow in the earth at large as other plants, but to the root of ſome ſpecies of ciſtus; as miſletoe grows to the branches of trees. The ſtalk is thick and fleſhy, and is often twice as large toward the top as at the bottom. It is whitiſh, or yellowiſh, or purpliſh, and has a parcel of ſhort and broad ſkinny films, by way of leaves upon it. The flowers grow at the top with leaves of the ſame kind among them; they are large and beautiful, and are ſucceeded by fruits of a roundiſh figure, in which is a quantity of glutinous

liquor, and with it the ſeeds, which are very ſmall, and of a browniſh colour.

We uſe the hardened juice of the fruit; it is evaporated over the fire to a thick conſiſtence, and then is of a black colour, like the common liquorice-juice, called *Spaniſh liquorice*. The druggiſts keep it in this ſtate; it is good in violent purgings, with bloody ſtools; and in overflowings of the menſes: It is to be given in an electuary, with conſerve of red roſes

Hyssop. *Hyſſopus.*

A very pretty garden-plant, kept for its virtues. It grows two feet high; the ſtalks are ſquare, robuſt, upright, and of a pale green colour; the leaves ſtand two at each joint; they are long, narrow, pointed at the ends, and of a bright green colour; the flowers are ſmall, and they ſtand in long ſpikes at the tops of the branches; they are of a beautiful blue colour. The whole plant has a ſtrong, but not diſagreeable ſmell.

Hyſſop is to be gathered when juſt beginning to flower, and dried: The infuſion made in the manner of tea, is not unpleaſant, and is the beſt way of taking it: It is excellent againſt coughs, hoarſeneſſes, and obſtructions in the breaſt. A ſtrong infuſion made into a ſyrup with honey is excellent for the ſame purpoſes, mixed with an equal quantity of oil of almonds.

Hedge-Hyssop. *Gratiola.*

A little plant kept in our gardens. It grows to a foot in height; the ſtalks are ſquare, ſlender, and not very robuſt; the leaves are long, narrow, and ſharp-pointed; they ſtand two at every joint; the flowers are long, moderately large, and yellow; they grow from the boſoms of the leaves, and are hollow, and

only a little divided at the ends: They are ſomewhat like foxglove-flowers.

A decoction of the freſh plant is an excellent purge, but it works roughly; it is good againſt dropſies and rheumatiſms; and the jaundice has been often cured by it ſingly.

J.

Jack by the Hedge. *Alliaria.*

A Spring plant of a conſpicuous figure, frequent in our hedges. The ſtalk is round, thick, firm, upright, and of a pale green, three feet in height, and very ſtraight; the leaves are large, broad, and ſhort, of a figure approaching to roundiſh, but ſomewhat pointed at the ends, and notched at the edges; they are of a pale yellowiſh green colour, and ſtand on long foot-ſtalks; the flowers are little and white; they ſtand ten or a dozen together at the tops of the branches, and are followed by long pods.

The freſh leaves, eaten as ſalad, work by urine powerfully, and are recommended in dropſies; the juice of them boiled into a ſyrup with honey, is good to break tough phlegm, and to cure coughs and hoarſeneſſes.

The Jacinth, or Hyacinth. *Hyacinthus vulgaris.*

The common ſpring plant our children gather with their cowſlips and May-flowers, and call *blue bells.*

The root is white and roundiſh; the leaves are narrow, and long like graſs, but of a deep green colour, and ſmooth ſurface; the ſtalks are round, upright, and ſmooth; they have no leaves on them; the flowers are large, and of a beautiful blue; they are hollow, oblong, and turn up at the rim. The root is the part uſed.

It abounds in a ſlimy juice, but it is to be dried, and this muſt be done carefully, the decoction of it operates well by urine; and the powder is balſamic, and ſomewhat ſtyptic. It is not enough known. There is hardly a more powerful remedy for the whites.

The Jalap Plant. *Jalapium.*

A CLIMBING plant, native of America, and not yet got into our gardens. The root is long, irregularly ſhaped, and thick; the ſtalks are round, tough, and firm, but ſlender and unable to ſupport themſelves: They grow to ten or twelve feet in length, and wind among buſhes; the leaves are oblong, broadeſt toward the baſe, of a duſky green, and not dented about the edges; the flowers are large, and of the ſhape of a bell, and their colour is purpliſh or white. The ſeed-veſſel is large and oval.

The root is the part uſed, and druggiſts ſell it. Given in powder with a little ginger to prevent its griping, it is an excellent purge. A ſtrong tincture of it made in brandy, anſwers the ſame purpoſe; it is good in dropſies, and is in general a ſafe and excellent purge.

Jessamin. *Jaſminum.*

A COMMON ſhrub in our gardens, and a great ornament to them. It does not well ſupport itſelf, ſo that it is commonly nailed againſt walls. The trunk is covered with a greyiſh bark: The young ſhoots

are green; the leaves ſtand two at each joint, and they are very beautiful; each is made up of about three pair of narrow, oblong, and pointed leaves, with a very long one at the end; they are of a deep green colour; the flowers are long, hollow, open at the end, and white, half a dozen or thereabout, grow on each ſtalk, and they are of a very delicate and fragrant ſmell, theſe are ſucceeded by berries, which ripen in the warmer countries.

The flowers are the part uſed. Pour a pint of boiling water upon ſix ounces of the freſh gathered and clean picked flowers of Jeſſamin; let it ſtand twelve hours, then pour it off, add honey enough to make the liquor into a thin ſyrup, and it is an excellent medicine in coughs.

Rose of Jericho. *Roſa Hicracontea.*

A little woody plant, named a *roſe* from nothing but its ſize, and its manner of folding itſelf up, by bending in the tops of the branches, ſo that it appears hollow and roundiſh. We are accuſtomed to ſee it dry, and in that condition, it is always thus drawn together. It is of the bigneſs of a man's fiſt, and is compoſed of a quantity of woody branches, interwoven with one another, and all bending inward. When it is put into warm water, it expands and becomes flattiſh, but on drying it, acquires the old form again.

It is in reality, a kind of thlaſpi, or treacle muſtard, but of a peculiar woody texture. The root is long, and pierces deep into the ground; there grow from this eight or ten ſtalks, which ſpread themſelves upon the ground, in a circular manner, as we ſee the ſtalks of our birds-foot, and many other little plants. Theſe ſtalks are thick and woody, and about four inches in length; they lie upon the ground toward the baſe, but lay turned up a little at the tops, and each of them has a number of branches.

The leaves are long, narrow, and of a pale green; they are very numerous, and they ſtand irregularly. The flowers are ſmall, and white like thoſe of our ſhepherds-purſe. The ſeed veſſels are ſmall, and contain ſeveral ſeeds like thoſe of the common treacle muſtard.

This is the appearance of the plant, as it grows very frequent in the warmer climates; and thus it has nothing ſingular in it, while in its perfection of growth, but after a time, the leaves decay and fall off, and the ſtalks as they dry, in the heat, draw up more and more, till by degrees they get into this round figure, from which warm water will expand them, but they recover it again as they dry.

This is the real hiſtory of that little kind of treacle muſtard, which is called the *roſe of Jericho*, and concerning which ſo many idle, as well as ſtrange things have been ſaid. Our good women have many ways of trying many experiments with it, by way of deciding future events, but nothing can be ſo fooliſh. The nature of the plant will make it expand, and open its branches, when put into warm water, and draw them together again, as it grows dry. This will always happen, and it will be more quick or more ſlow, according to the condition of the plant. Where it is to be had freſh, it does not want medicinal virtues. The young ſhoots are good in infuſion againſt ſore throats, but we have the plant without its leaves, and in reality, little more than a ſtick; ſo that it would be idle, to expect any good in it.

THE JESUITS BARK-TREE. *Arbor Peruviana.*

A SMALL tree, native of South-America, which has not yet got into our gardens. The trunk is as thick as a man's leg, and its bark grey. The branches are numerous and irregular, and their bark is of a browner colour, but with the ſame tinge of grey. The leaves are long and large, three inches in length,

and half as much in breadth, and of a pale green colour: They are pointed at the end, but not at all indented at the edges. The flowers are ſmall, and their colour is a pale purple: They ſtand in great cluſters together; they are long, hollow, and open at the end, where they are a little divided. The fruit is a dry capſule, of an oblong figure.

The bark is the part uſed. Beſides its certain efficacy againſt agues and intermitting fevers, it is an excellent ſtomachic and aſtringent; nothing is better to ſtrengthen the appetite; and in overflowings of the menſes, and all other bleedings, it is of the greateſt efficacy. It is beſt given in powder. The tincture is to be made in brandy, but it is not nearly ſo good as the ſubſtance, when it is given for diſorders of the ſtomach; the beſt way is to pick fine pieces of the bark and chew them.

JEWS-EARS. *Auriculæ Judæ.*

A KIND of fungus, or, as the common phraſe is, of toads-ſtool, growing upon old elder-trees. It is about an inch and a half long, and generally an inch broad, and is ſomewhat of the ſhape of an ear. It grows by a broad baſe to the bark of the tree, and from this it gradually ſpreads into a flat hollow ſubſtance, with ſeveral ridges in it, running irregularly, whence it is ſuppoſed to have the reſemblance of the ear moſt perfectly. Its colour is a pale grey on the outſide, it is darker within, and there run ſeveral ribs along it. It is to be dried. Boiled in milk, it is recommended greatly in ſore-throats and quincies. Theſe remedies of the vulgar have come originally from phyſicians, and they commonly have ſomething to ſupport them. The Jews-ear is at this time out of repute, but that ſeems owing to ſophiſtrication. They commonly ſell under the name of it another fungus, that grows to a great bigneſs, overſpreading

wood, in damp places. They get it off the water-pipes at the New-River-Head at Iſlington, to ſupply Covent-Garden market.

The St. Ignatius's Bean. *Faba Sancti Ignatii.*

A PLANT common in the Weſt-Indies, and very ill called a *bean*, being truly a gourd. The name *bean* was given to the ſeeds of this plant before it was known how they were produced, and ſome have continued it to the plant. It grows to a great height, when there is a tree to ſupport it, for it cannot ſupport itſelf. It has a ſtalk as thick as a man's arm, angulated, light, and not firm. The leaves are very large, oblong, and undivided, and they have the ribs very high upon them: They are broad at the baſe, and grow narrower to the point, and are of a deep green colour. The flowers are very large, and of a deep blood red; at a diſtance they have the aſpect of a red-roſe. The fruit is large and roundiſh; it has a woody ſhell, and over that a thin ſkin, bright and ſhining; within there are twenty or thirty ſeeds; they are of the bigneſs of a ſmall nutmeg when we ſee them; they are roundiſh, and very rough upon the ſurface; each is of a woody ſubſtance, and when taſted, is of the flavour of citron ſeeds, but extremely bitter and nauſeous. The colour is moſtly grey or browniſh.

Theſe ſeeds are what we uſe in medicine, and call the *St. Ignatius's bean.* It is a medicine to be given with great caution, but it has many virtues: The moſt powerful remedies, when in ill hands, are naturally the moſt dangerous; the powder given in a ſmall doſe occaſions vomiting and purging, and often, if the conſtitution be tender, convulſions; it is much better to give it in tincture when no ſuch effects happen from it. It is of an excellent effect againſt nervous complaints: It will cure the falling ſickneſs, given in proper doſes, and continued for a

long time: The tincture is the beſt for this purpoſe. Some have given the powder, in very ſmall quantities, againſt worms, and that with ſucceſs; its extreme bitter makes it very diſagreeable, and the taſte continues in the throat a long time, whence it occaſions vomiting. We neglect it very much at preſent, becauſe of its roughneſs, but it would be better we found the way of giving it with ſafety. There are gentler medicines, but none of them ſo efficacious: It will do ſervice in caſes that the common methods do not reach.

St. John's Wort. *Hypericum.*

A robust and pretty plant, frequent in our paſtures, and other dry places. The height is a foot and a half; the ſtalk is round, thick, firm, and very upright, and divided towards the top into ſeveral branches; the leaves are ſhort and blunt at the points; they are of a bright green colour, and, if held up againſt the light, they ſeem to be full of pin-holes; the flowers grow in abundance on the tops of the branches; they are large, and of a bright and beautiful yellow, full of yellow threads, which, if rubbed upon the hand, ſtain it red like blood. The fruit is a dry ſeed-veſſel.

The part uſed is the flowery tops of the plant, juſt as they begin to ripen. A decoction of theſe works powerfully by urine, and is excellent againſt the gravel, and in ulcerations of the ureters. The ſame tops, freſh gathered and bruiſed, are good for wounds and bruiſes; they ſtop bleeding, and ſerve as a balſam for one, and take off blackneſs in the other.

The Jujube-Tree. *Zizyphus.*

A tree of the bigneſs of our plum-trees, and not unlike them in ſhape. The bark is grey on the trunk, and brown on the branches; the leaves are moderately large, and each is compoſed of a number of ſmaller ones, ſet on each ſide of a middle rib, but not oppoſite to one another, and with an odd one at the end; theſe are oblong, obtuſe, and ſerrated round the edges, and the odd leaf at the end is the largeſt and longeſt; the flowers are ſmall and yellow; the fruit is oval, and of the bigneſs of a moderate plum; it has a ſoft ſubſtance on the outſide, and a ſtone within, which is large and long, and pointed at both ends.

The fruit is uſed. It was at one time brought over to us dried, but we ſee little of it now; it was eſteemed balſamic, and was given to cure coughs, and to work by urine.

The White Stock July-Flower. *Lucoium album.*

A robust garden-plant, kept for its flowers, which Art variegates and makes double. It grows two or three feet high. The ſtalk is thick, firm, round, and of a greyiſh colour; the leaves are long, narrow, hairy, and whitiſh; the ſtalks which bear the flowers are alſo of a whitiſh green, and tender. The flowers are as broad as a ſhilling, white, and ſweet-ſcented.

The flowers are the part uſed, and they are to be freſh gathered, and only juſt blown. A tea made of them is good to promote the menſes, and it operates alſo by urine. An ointment is to be made by boiling them in hogs-lard, which is excellent for ſore nipples.

The Juniper Shrub. *Juniperus.*

A common ſhrub on our heaths. It grows to no great height in England, but in ſome other parts of Europe, riſes to a conſiderably large tree. The bark is of a reddiſh brown; the branches are tough; the leaves are longiſh, very narrow, and prickly at the ends; the flowers are of a yellowiſh colour, but ſmall and inconſiderable; the berries are large, and, when ripe, blackiſh; they are of a ſtrong, but not diſagreeable ſmell, and of a ſweetiſh, but reſinous taſte. The leaves are of a faint bluiſh green colour.

The berries are the part moſt uſed. We have them from Germany principally. They have two excellent qualities, they diſpel wind, and work by urine, for which reaſon they are excellent in thoſe cholics which ariſe from the gravel and ſtone. With theſe is alſo made the true geneva; but the liquor our poor people drink under that name is only malt ſpirits and oil of turpentine.

Ivy. *Hedera.*

A very common ſhrub, crawling about old trees, or upon old walls; it ſometimes runs upon the ground for want of ſuch ſupport, but then it rarely bears any fruit; the trunk is thick, brown, and covered with a peculiar roughneſs; the branches are numerous and brittle; the leaves have a ſtrange variety of ſhapes, oblong, angular, cornered, or divided. The flowers ſtand in little round cluſters, and they are ſmall and inconſiderable; they are ſucceeded by large berries; the leaves upon the young ſhoots that bear the flowers are always oblong; thoſe on the trunk are angulated. They are all of a deep gloſſy green.

The leaves and berries are both uſed, but neither much. A decoction of the leaves deſtroys vermine in childrens heads, and heals the ſoreneſs that attends them. The berries are purging; an infuſion of them will often work alſo by vomit, but there is no harm in this: They are an excellent remedy in rheumatiſms, and pains of all kinds, and, it is ſaid, have cured dropſies; but this is perhaps going too far.

The ivy in the warm countries ſweats out a kind reſin, which has been uſed externally at ſome times, on various occaſions; but at this time it is quite unknown in practice.

K.

KIDNEY-WORT. *Umbilicus veneris.*

A VERY ſingular plant, which grows on old walls in ſome parts of England. It is eight inches high, and is diſtinguiſhed at ſight by a cluſter of round leaves which grow about the ſtalk; the root is roundiſh, and its fibres grow from the bottom; the leaves ſtand on longiſh and thick foot-ſtalks, which are, except in the loweſt of all, inſerted not at the edges of the leaf, but in the middle; theſe are round, thick, fleſhy, and indented about the edges; the ſtalk which bears the flowers is round, thick, and towards the top divided into two or three branches; on theſe grow the flowers in a kind of ſpikes; they are oblong, hollowiſh, and of a greeniſh white colour.

The leaves are the part uſed. Externally, they are cooling, and good againſt pains. They are applied, bruiſed, to the piles with great ſucceſs. The juice of them taken inwardly operates by urine, and is excellent againſt ſtranguries, and good in the gravel and inflammations of the liver and ſpleen.

KNAP-WEED. *Jacea.*

A VERY common wild plant, with dark-coloured longiſh leaves, and purple flowers, like thoſe of the thiſtles. It is two feet high; the ſtalks are roundiſh, but ribbed; they are of a pale colour, very firm and ſtrong, upright, and divided into branches; the leaves are long, and of the ſame breadth; thoſe which grow immediately from the root are but little jagged or cut at the edges; thoſe which ſtand upon the ſtalk are more ſo; the flowers are large; they ſtand in ſcaly heads, one of which is placed at the top of every branch; and at a diſtance they have ſomething of the appearance of the flowers of thiſtles, but when examined nearer, they are more like thoſe of the blue-bottle. The flowers themſelves are of a bright red, and large.

The young plant is uſed freſh: A decoction of it is good againſt the bleeding of the piles, againſt looſeneſſes with bloody ſtools, and all other bleedings. A ſlight infuſion is recommended againſt ſore throats, to be uſed by way of gargle. There are ſo many of theſe gently-aſtringent plants common in our fields, as yarrow, and the like, that leſs reſpect is to be paid to one of leſs power in the ſame way. Knap-weed may be very properly added to decoctions of the others, but it would not be ſo well to truſt to its effects ſingly.

KNOT-GRASS. *Polygonum.*

A MOST common wild plant in our fields, pathways, and hedges: There are two or three kinds of it, but they pretty much reſemble one another in form, and in virtues; the largeſt is the beſt. The ſtalks of this are ten inches long, round, jointed, and of a duſky green; the leaves are of an oval form, of a bluiſh green colour, and not indented at the edges; the ſtalks lie upon the ground, and one of theſe only grows at each joint; the flowers are ſmall and white, but with a tinge of reddiſh; the ſeed is ſingle, black, and three-cornered.

It has been obſerved before, that Providence has in general made the moſt common plants the moſt uſeful. A decoction of knot-graſs roots, ſtalks, and leaves, is an excellent aſtringent. It ſtops bloody ſtools, and is good againſt all bleedings, but in particular it is a remedy againſt the bleeding-piles, and againſt the overflowing of the menſes.

Knot Grafs



Ladies Bedftraw



Ground Liver Wort



Marsh Mallow



Meadow Sweet



Mother Wort



L.

The Gum-Lac Tree. *Laca Arbor.*

A Tree of the bigneſs of our apple-tree, frequent in the Eaſt, but not yet known in Europe. The trunk is covered with a rough reddiſh bark; the branches are numerous and tough; they have a ſmoother rind, of a colour inclining to purple; the leaves are broad, and of a whitiſh green on the upper-ſide, and of a ſilvery white underneath; the flowers are ſmall and yellow; the fruit is of the bigneſs of a plum, and has in it a large ſtone; the outer or pulpy part is of an auſtere, and not very agreeable taſte.

The gum-lac is found upon the branches of this tree, but it is pretended by ſome, that a ſort of flies depoſit it there, and on other ſubſtances; and that it is a kind of wax; however, there are perſons of credit who ſay they have obtained it by cutting the branches of this tree, and a like ſubſtance from the branches of the ſeveral kinds of jujubes to which this belongs, in the hot countries. Probably the flies get it off this tree, and lodge it for their purpoſes upon ſticks and other ſubſtances, as we ſee it.

Our druggiſts have three kinds of this reſin, for it is ill called a *gum*. The one they call the *ſtick-lac*, becauſe it is brought in round ſticks; the other *ſeed-lac* in ſmall lumps, and the other *ſhell-lac*, which is thin and tranſparent, and has been melted; of this reſin

the ſealing-wax is made with very little alteration more than the colouring it, which is done by means of cinnabar or coarſer materials. Taken inwardly, gum-lac is good againſt obſtructions of the liver; it operates by urine and ſweat, and is good in moſt chronic caſes ariſing from ſuch obſtructions.

Ladies Mantle. *Archimilla.*

A very pretty little plant, native of ſome parts of England, but not very common wild; the leaves are numerous and very beautiful; they are broad, and of a roundiſh figure, but divided deeply into eight parts, and each of theſe elegantly indented about the edges; they are of a yellowiſh green colour, nearly as broad as the palm of ones hand, and they ſtand upon foot-ſtalks of an inch or two in length; the ſtalks grow from the midſt; they are round, a little hairy, eight inches long, not very upright, and of a pale green colour; the flowers ſtand in conſiderable numbers at their tops; they are ſmall, and of a greeniſh colour, but have a great many yellow threads in the middle. The root is long, thick, and dark-coloured.

The root is the part moſt valuable; a decoction of it freſh taken up is an excellent remedy for the overflowings of the menſes, for bloody-fluxes, and all other bleedings. Dried and powdered it anſwers the ſame purpoſe, and is alſo good againſt common purgings. The good women in the North of England apply the leaves to their breaſts to make them recover their form after they have been ſwelled with milk. Hence it has got the name of *ladies mantle*.

The Larch-Tree. *Larix.*

A moderately tall, and in ſummer a very beautiful tree, but though one of the reſinous kind, and in many reſpects approaching to the nature of the fir

and pine, it loſes its leaves in winter: It is a native of Italy, and is frequent in our gardens; the trunk is rugged, and the branches are covered with a rough bark of a browniſh colour, with a tinge of reddiſh; the leaves are an inch or more in length, extremely ſlender, and of a bluiſh green colour, and they grow in little cluſters on different parts of the branches; the flowers are inconſiderable; the fruit is a cone, but very ſmall; it is not bigger than a little walnut.

The young leaves are boiled, and the liquor is drank to promote urine; but this is an idle way of getting at the virtues of the tree. Venice turpentine is produced from it; and this liquid reſin contains them all in perfection; they cut the trunk of the tree deep in the heat of ſummer, and the reſin flows out. This works powerfully by urine, and is a noble balſam; it is good againſt the whites, and to ſtop the running that often remains from a clap after all the virulence is removed; but in this caſe it muſt be given cautiouſly.

Larks-Spur. *Delphinium*

A common flower in our gardens, but not without its virtue. It grows a yard high; the ſtalks are round, upright, firm, and of a pale green; the leaves are cut into a multitude of long, narrow, and very fine diviſions, and are of a deep green colour, and the flowers, which grow in long ſpikes at the tops of the branches, are naturally blue, but often red or white; they are moderately large, and have a kind of ſpur behind.

The leaves are uſed; they muſt be boiled freſh in water, and the decoction is good againſt the bleeding piles. It ſtops the hemorrhage, and at the ſame time cools the body, whereas too many of the reſtringent medicines are heating.

LAVENDER. *Lavendula.*

A COMMON plant in our gardens, native of the warmer parts of Europe; it is of a ſhrubby nature in the ſtem, but the reſt is herbaceous. It grows a yard high. The trunk or main ſtem, is thick, woody, firm, and covered with a whitiſh bark; the young ſhoots from this are tender and greeniſh, and on theſe ſtand the leaves; they are long, narrow, of a pale green colour, and ſtand two at each joint; the ſtalks which bear the flowers, are ſquare, green, and naked; the flowers ſtand in ſhort ſpikes or ears; they are ſmall, blue, and very fragrant; the cups of the flowers are whitiſh.

Theſe flowers are the part uſed; they are good againſt all diſorders of the head and nerves; they may be taken in the form of tea; the famous ſpirit of lavender, called *palſy-drops*, and the ſweet lavender-water are made with them. The ſpirit of lavender, called *palſy-drops*, is thus made beſt.

Put into a ſmall ſtill a pound of lavender-flowers, and five ounces of the tender tops of roſemary, put to them five quarts of common molaſſes ſpirit, and a quart of water: Diſtil off three quarts, put to this cinnamon and nutmegs, of each three quarters of an ounce, red ſanders-wood, half an ounce; let theſe ſtand together a week, and then ſtrain off the ſpirit.

The lavender-water is thus made: Put a pound of freſh lavender-flowers into a ſtill, with a gallon of molaſſes ſpirit, and draw off five pints. This is lavender-water.

LAVENDER COTTON. *Abrotonum fœmina.*

A LITTLE ſhrubby plant, frequent wild in Italy, but with us kept in gardens. It grows two feet or more in height; the ſtem is whitiſh; the ſtalks growing from it are tough and firm, of a whitiſh colour alſo,

and very numerous; the leaves are oblong, ſlender, of a ſquare ſhape, and indented; they are alſo whitiſh, and of a ſtrong ſmell; the ſtalks which ſupport the flowers are long and naked; they are round, of a greeniſh colour, and each has at its top a ſingle flower, which is yellow and naked, and of the bigneſs of an horſe-bean.

The leaves are the part uſed; they are beſt freſh gathered; they are to be given infuſed in water againſt worms; they are a diſagreeable medicine, but a very efficacious one; they alſo promote the menſes, and open obſtructions of the liver; they have been recommended greatly in the jaundice.

SPURGE LAUREL. *Laureola.*

A WILD little ſhrub, of a ſingular aſpect, and of conſiderable virtues; it is three feet high; the ſtem is half an inch thick, and divides into a great many branches; the bark is of a browniſh colour, and they are not very ſtrong; the leaves ſtand at the tops of the branches; they are long, narrow, and of a bright and fine green; they are of a firm ſubſtance, and are not indented at the edges; the flowers are very ſmall and inconſiderable, they are green, with ſome yellow threads, and have a ſweet ſmell; the berries are ſmall, roundiſh, and black.

The leaves are a powerful remedy againſt the dropſy, but they are ſo violent, they muſt be given with caution; a ſmall quantity of a ſlight infuſion of them in water, works by vomit and ſtool in a powerful manner. It is not every conſtitution that can bear ſuch a medicine.

THE LEEK. *Porrum.*

A COMMON plant in our kitchen gardens; it grows three feet high; the ſtalk is round, green, and thick; the leaves are large, long, and of a deep green, and

the flowers grow in a round cluſter at the top of the ſtalk; they are of a purpliſh colour, with a tinge of green; the root is white, oblong, thick, and roundiſh, with fibres at the bottom.

An infuſion of the roots of leeks made in water, and boiled into a ſyrup with honey, is good againſt aſthmas, coughs, and obſtructions in the breaſt and lungs. It anſwers the ſame purpoſes with ſyrup of garlic, and will agree with ſome who cannot bear that medicine.

THE LEMON TREE. *Limonia malus.*

A SHRUB, native of the warmer countries, and frequent in our green-houſes, very beautiful and fragrant; the trunk is moderately thick, and covered with a brown bark; the branches are numerous, irregular, and beſet with prickles; the leaves are large, and very beautiful, of an oval figure, and ſet upon a naked ſtalk; they are of a beautiful green, and remain on the tree all winter; the flowers are large and white, of a thick firm ſubſtance, and very fragrant ſmell; the fruit we are ſufficiently acquainted with; its ſhape is oblong, and its rind of a pale yellow colour, it has a part like a nipple at each end; its ſmell is very fragrant, and its juice ſour.

The peel and the juice of the fruit are uſed; the peel is ſtomachic and warm; it is a good ingredient in bitter infuſions. The juice made into a ſyrup with twice its weight of fine ſugar, is excellent for ſweetening juleps and drinks in fevers; and, mixed with ſalt of wormwood, it ſtops vomitings.

LEADWORT. *Dentillaria ſive Plumbago.*

A LITTLE plant, native of ſome parts of Europe, and kept in our gardens. It is two feet high; the ſtalks are ſlender, tough, and weak, hardly able to ſupport themſelves upright; the leaves are of a pale bluiſh

green colour, oblong, not very broad, and they ſurround the ſtalk at the baſe; the flowers are red; they are, ſingly, very ſmall, but they ſtand in thick, oblong cluſters, on the tops of the ſtalks, and each is ſucceeded by a ſingle ſeed, which is very rough, and ſtands naked.

The dried root is to be uſed; a piece of it put into the mouth, fills it with a great quantity of rheum, and is often an almoſt inſtantaneous cure for the headach. It alſo cures the tooth-ach in the ſame manner as pellitory of Spain does: It is more hot and acrid, than even that fiery root.

THE INDIAN-LEAF TREE. *Malabathrum.*

A TALL and beautiful tree of the Eaſt-Indies, not unlike the cinnamon tree in its manner of growth. The trunk is as thick as our elms, and it grows as tall, but the branches are diſpoſed with leſs regularity; the wood is brittle, and the young ſhoots are of a pale brown; the leaves are large, nine inches long, and ſeven in breadth, and not at all indented; the flowers ſtand in cluſters, on the tops of the branches; they are ſmall and greyiſh, and the fruit is of the bigneſs of our red currant. It is common in the mountainous parts of the Eaſt.

Theſe leaves are the parts uſed, we have them dried at the druggiſts, but they commonly keep them till they are decayed. It is an aromatic medicine; it ſtrengthens the ſtomach, and is good in nervous diſorders.

LENTILE. *Lens.*

A KIND of little pulſe, ſown in fields, in ſome parts of England. It grows a foot and a half high, but does not ſtand very upright. The ſtalk is angulated, of a pale green, and branched; the leaves are like thoſe of the common pea: They conſiſt each of ſe-

veral pairs of ſmall ones, ſet on a rib, and there is a tendril in place of an odd leaf at the end. Theſe ſmall leaves are of a pale green colour, and oval ſhape. The flowers are white and ſmall, but in ſhape like a pea-bloſſom; they ſtand ſingly on long ſtalks; the fruit is a pod of a flattiſh ſhape, in which there generally are two ſeeds, alſo a little flatted, and of the bigneſs of a ſmall pea.

The fruit is uſed: It is ground to powder to make into poultices for ſwellings, but it is not much regarded.

Lettice. *Lactuca.*

A common plant in our kitchen-gardens, which we eat raw. When it riſes to flower it is two feet and a half high. The ſtalk is round, thick, firm, very upright, and of a pale green; the leaves are oblong, broad, and ſomewhat waved at the edges; the flowers ſtand on the tops of the ſtalks, and are of a pale yellow; the ſeed is winged with a light white down.

The juice of lettice is a good medicine to procure ſleep, or the thick ſtalk eaten will ſerve the ſame purpoſe. It is a good method to put thoſe into, who require a gentle opiate, and will not take medicines.

Wild Lettice. *Lactuca Sylveſtris major.*

A common plant in our hedges, and having ſome reſemblance to the garden lettice in its flowers, though not in its manner of growth. It is ſix or ſeven feet high. The ſtalk is thick, round, very upright, branched, and of a pale yellowiſh green colour; the leaves at the bottom are very large, a foot long, and five inches broad, and of a pale green colour; thoſe higher up the ſtalks are ſmaller; they are deeply indented at the edges, and either theſe, the ſtalk, or any other part of the plant being wounded, there flows

out a milky juice, which has the ſmell of opium, and its hot bitter taſte: The branches are very numerous, and the flowers are alſo very numerous, but they are ſmall and of a pale yellow.

This is a plant not introduced into the common practice, but very worthy of that notice. I have known it uſed in private families, with great ſucceſs. A ſyrup made from a ſtrong infuſion of it, is an excellent anodyne; it eaſes the moſt violent pain in cholics, and other diſorders, and gently diſpoſes the perſon to ſleep. It has the good effect of a gentle opiate, and none of the bad ones of that violent medicine.

THE WHITE LILY. *Lilium album.*

A TALL, fragrant, and beautiful garden plant. It grows four or five feet high; the ſtalk is round, green, thick, firm, and very upright; a great many leaves ſurround it at the bottom, and a great many grow upon it all the way: Theſe are of the ſame ſhape, long, narrow, and ſmooth, and of a pale green upon the ſtalk, and deeper green at the root. The flowers ſtand on the diviſions of the top of the ſtalk; they are large, white, and compoſed as it were of a quantity of thick ſcales.

The roots contain the greateſt virtue; they are excellent, mixed in poultices, to apply to ſwellings. The flowers poſſeſs the ſame virtue alſo, being emollient and good againſt pain. An oil is made of the flowers ſteeped in common oil of olives; but the freſh flowers are much better in the ſeaſon; and the root may be had freſh at all times, and it poſſeſſes the ſame virtues.

LILY OF THE VALLEY. *Lilium Convallium.*

A VERY pretty little plant, but ſo different from the former, that one would wonder how it came to be

called by any part of the ſame name. It is ſix or eight inches high. The leaves are large, long, and broad, of a deep green colour, and full of very thick ribs or veins. The ſtalks are weak, ſlender, angular, and green; they bend towards the top, and on each there ſtands, or rather hangs, a row of white flowers; they are roundiſh, hollow, and of a delicate and pleaſing ſmell; theſe are ſucceeded by berries, which are red when they are ripe.

The flowers are uſed. A tea made of them and drank for a conſtancy, is excellent againſt all nervous complaints, it will cure nervous headachs, and tremblings of the limbs: A great deal too much has been ſaid of this plant, for people call it a remedy for apoplexies and the dead palſies, but though all this is not true, enough is to give the plant a reputation, and bring it again into uſe.

The Water-Lily. *Nymphæa alba.*

A large and elegant plant, the broad leaves of which we ſee floating upon the ſurface of the water in our brooks not unfrequently; and in the autumn large white flowers among them. The root of the plant is very long, and extremely thick, and lies buried in the mud; the leaves riſe ſingly one on each ſtalk; the ſtalks are round, thick, and of a ſpungy ſubſtance, having a white pith in them; and the leaves alſo are thick and ſomewhat ſpungy; they are of a roundiſh figure, and they lie flat upon the ſurface of the water; the flowers ſtand upon ſingle foot-ſtalks, ariſing like thoſe of the leaves ſeparately from the root, and being like them, light, round, gloſſy, and full of a white pith; the flowers are large and white, and have ſome yellow threads in the middle; the ſeed-veſſel, is large and roundiſh, and the ſeeds are numerous.

The root is the part uſed, and it is beſt freſh, and given in a ſtrong decoction. It is a powerful remedy

in the whites, and in thoſe weakneſſes left after venereal complaints; it is alſo good againſt violent purgings, eſpecially where there are bloody ſtools. There are other kinds of water-lily in our ditches, particularly a large yellow flowered one, whoſe roots poſſeſs the ſame virtues with the others, but in a leſs degree.

THE LIME TREE. *Tilia.*

A TREE common enough in parks and gardens, and when in flower very beautiful and fragrant; the trunk is thick, and the branches grow with a tolerable regularity; the leaves are ſhort, broad, of a figure approaching to round, but terminating in a point, and ſerrated about the edges; the flowers grow on long yellowiſh ſtalks, with a yellow oblong, and narrow leaf upon them; they are themſelves alſo of a yellowiſh white colour, and extremely delicate and ſweet ſmell. The fruit is roundiſh and ſmall; the flowers are the only part uſed; they are good againſt giddineſs of the head, tremblings of the limbs, and all the other lighter nervous diſorders; they are beſt taken as tea.

THE LIQUID-AMBER TREE. *Succinum liquidum.*

A VERY beautiful tree of the American iſlands, which we have brought of late into our gardens; it grows fifty feet high, and the branches are numerous, and diſpoſed with a tolerable regularity. The leaves are large and very beautiful; they are broad, and are divided much in the manner of the leaves of our maple-tree, but much more beautifully; they are of a gloſſy green, and the tips of the boughs have a fragrant ſmell; the flowers are greeniſh and ſmall; the fruit is of the bigneſs of a ſmall walnut, roundiſh and rough upon the ſurface, with ſeveral ſeeds within.

We uſe a reſin which runs from the trunk of this tree in great heats; it is of a reddiſh colour, ſoft, and extremely fragrant, nearly a perfume; it is an

excellent balſam, nothing exceeds it as a remedy for the whites, and for the weakneſſes left after veneral diſorders; it is alſo good in diſorders of the lungs; and it works by urine, and diſſodges gravel. There was a cuſtom at one time of mixing it among perfumes, but of late it has been neglected, and is grown ſcarce.

The Liquid-Storax Tree. *Styrax liquida Arbor.*

A large tree, ſo much we hear of it, is native of the Eaſt-Indies, but very ill deſcribed to us. We are told the leaves are large, and the flowers fragrant, but of what form no body has told us, or what is the fruit. All that we uſe is a liquid reſin of a very peculiar kind, which we are told is obtained by boiling the bark, and the young ſhoots of the tree in water; the reſin ſwims at the top, and they ſcum it off and ſtrain it, but it will not all paſs through. It is from hence that we ſee two kinds; the one finer, thinner, and purer, the other thicker and coarſer; this laſt kind is more common than the better ſort, and it is generally uſed.

It is a balſam of the nature of the turpentines; and is good againſt the whites, and the weakneſſes that follow veneral diſorders. Some have uſed it alſo in diſeaſes of the lungs, but it has never been in great repute on thoſe occaſions. It is ſometimes put into ointments intended for old ulcers; and it is ſaid to be uſed this way with great ſucceſs.

Liquorice. *Glycyrrhiza.*

A rough looking plant, cultivated in many places for the ſake of the root. It is a yard high or more. The ſtalk is round, ſtriated, and branched; the leaves are long and large, each is compoſed of a great many pairs of ſmaller, ſtanding on a middle rib, with an odd one at the end; theſe are of an oval figure, of a

duſky green colour, and they are clammy to the touch. The flowers are very ſmall and blue, they ſtand in long ſpikes, riſing from the boſoms of the leaves. The ſeeds are contained in pods; the root is the part uſed; and its virtues are very great. It is beſt freſh taken out of the grouud, the ſweetneſs of its taſte renders it agreeable, and it is excellent againſt coughs, hoarſeneſſes, and ſhortneſs of breath. It alſo works gently by urine, and is of ſervice in ulcerations of the kidneys, and urinary paſſages, acting there as in the lungs at once, as a detergent and balſamic.

The beſt way of taking it is by ſucking or chewing the freſh root: But it may be taken in infuſion, or in the manner of tea. The black ſubſtance, called *liquorice-juice* and *Spaniſh liquorice*, is made by evaporating a ſtrong decoction of this root. But the freſh root itſelf is better.

NOBLE LIVERWORT, OR HEPATICA. *Hepatica Nobilis.*

A COMMON garden-flower, which makes a very pretty figure in ſpring, and is little regarded, except as an ornament in our borders; though it is not without conſiderable virtues. The leaves are ſupported each on a ſingle foot-ſtalk, white, ſlender, and reddiſh; they are near an inch broad, and of the ſame length, and divided each into three parts; the flowers riſe early in the ſpring, before theſe appear: They alſo ſtand ſingly on long foot-ſtalks, and are moderately large and blue, with a greeniſh head in the middle; the root is fibrous.

An infuſion of the leaves of this plant is good againſt obſtructions of the liver and ſpleen; it works gently by urine, and is a good medicine in the jaundice, taking it in time.

Green Liverwort. *Lichen vulgaris.*

A common low plant, compoſed wholly of leaves, which ſpread themſelves on the ground, and are of a beautiful green colour; authors refer it to the kinds of moſs. It grows on old walls, in wells, and other damp places. The leaves are oblong, blunt, and thin; they ſpread one over another, and take root whereever they touch the ground; they often cover a ſpace of a foot or more in one cluſter. This is all that is uſually ſeen of the plant; but in ſpring when the place and the weather favour, there riſe up among theſe leaves certain long and ſlender ſtalks, on the tops of which ſtand imperfect flowers, as they are called, ſmall, roundiſh, and reſembling the heads of little muſhrooms.

The whole plant is uſed, and it is beſt green and freſh gathered. It is to be given in a ſtrong decoction. It opens obſtructions of the liver, and works by urine. It is good againſt the jaundice, and is an excellent medicine in the firſt ſtages of conſumptions. It is not nearly ſo much regarded as it ought to be. It is alſo uſed externally for foulneſs of the ſkin.

Grey Ground-Liverwort. *Lichen cinerus Terreſtris.*

A plant very common by our dry wood-ſides, and in paſtures, in ſome degree reſembling the laſt deſcribed, but differing in colour, and in its fructification. This conſiſts alſo entirely of leaves; they are of a bluiſh grey colour on the outſide, and of a whitiſh grey underneath. They are two inches long, and an inch and a half broad; and grow in cluſters together, often they are leſs diſtinct, and therefore appear larger. Theſe do not ſend up any ſtalks, to bear a kind of flowers in heads. The tips of the leaves turn up, and are reddiſh, and in theſe parts

are contained the ſeeds. The whole plant ſeems dry and ſapleſs.

The whole plant is uſed, and it has been of late very famous. Its efficacy is againſt the bite of a mad dog; it is mixed with pepper, and the perſon is at the ſame time to bathe in the ſea. There have been inſtances of its ſucceſs, when given to dogs, but perhaps no cure was ever performed upon a human creature, when this terrible diſeaſed had ariſen to any height. Bleeding and opium are the preſent practice.

THE LOGWOOD-TREE. *Arbor Campechiana.*

A TREE native of the ſouthern parts of America, the wood of which has been uſed in dying, longer than in medicine, but is very ſerviceable in the latter capacity. The tree is large, and makes a beautiful appearance; the branches are numerous, and they ſpread with a ſort of regularity; the leaves are compoſed each of ſeveral pairs of ſmaller, ſet on the two ſides of a common rib, with an odd one at the end; the flowers are of the ſhape of pea-bloſſoms, but they are yellow; the pods which ſucceed them, are very large, and the boughs of the tree are very thick ſet, with ſharp thorns of a reddiſh colour.

We uſe only the heart of the wood, which is of a deep red colour. It is of an auſtere taſte, but with ſomething of ſweetneſs in it at laſt, in this it reſembles greatly what is called *Japan earth*, and it reſembles that drug alſo in virtues. It is a very powerful medicine to ſtop fluxes of the belly, and overflowflowings of the menſes. The beſt way of giving it is in form of an extract, which is to be made by boiling down a ſtrong decoction of wood to the conſiſtence of honey. In this form it will keep a long time, and is always ready for uſe.

Purple Loosestrife. *Lyſimachia purpurea.*

A wild plant, that decorates the ſides of ditches and rivers, and would be an ornament to our gardens. It grows to three feet high, and is very regular; the ſtalk is ſquare, hairy, and generally of a reddiſh colour; the leaves ſtand two at each joint, and they are long and narrow; of a duſky green, and a little rough; the flowers ſtand in very long ſpikes at the tops of the ſtalks, and are large, and of a ſtrong purple colour; the ſpikes are often a foot or more in length; the ſeed is very little and brown.

The leaves are uſed; they are a fine balſam for freſh wounds, and an ointment is to be made of them boiled in lard, which is alſo cooling and deterſive, but it is not a fine green colour.

Yellow Loosestrife. *Lyſimachia lutea.*

A wild plant not uncommon in our watery places, but, for its beauty, very worthy a place in our gardens. If it were brought from America, it would be called one of the moſt elegant plants in the world. It is four feet high; the ſtalks are rigid, firm, upright, and very regular in their growth; a little hairy, and toward the tops divided into ſeveral branches. The leaves are as long as ones finger, and an inch and a half broad in the middle, and ſmall at each end; they are a little hairy, and of a yellowiſh green. The flowers are large, and of a beautiful yellow; they grow ſeveral together on the tops of the branches. The ſeed-veſſels are full of ſmall ſeeds.

The root dried and given in powder is good againſt the whites, and againſt bloody fluxes, overflowings of the menſes, and purgings: It is aſtringent and balſamic. The young leaves bound about a freſh wound ſtop the bleeding, and perform a cure in a ſhort time.

Lovage. *Leviſticum.*

A tall plant of the umbelliferous kind, kept in our gardens for its uſe in medicine. The ſtalk is round, thick, hollow, and deeply ſtriated or channelled; the leaves are very large, and they are each compoſed of a number of ſmaller; theſe are ſet on a divided ſtalk, and are ſhort, broad, and indented at the edges; the flowers are ſmall and yellow, the ſeed is ſtriated, the root is brown, thick, and divided, and the fibres from it are numerous; it is of a hot aromatic taſte.

The roots, freſh dug, work by urine, and are good againſt the jaundice. The ſeeds have the ſame effect alſo, and they diſpel wind. The dried root is a ſudorific, and is good in fevers.

Tree Lungwort. *Muſcus Pulmonarius.*

A broad and large kind of moſs, in form ſomewhat reſembling the green and grey liverwort, but bigger than either; it grows on the barks of old oaks and beech-trees, but is not common. It is principally found in large woods. Each leaf, or ſeparate plant, is eight or ten inches long, and nearly as much in breadth, of a yellowiſh colour, and of a ſubſtance reſembling leather; it is divided deeply at the edges, and is rough, and full of high veins at the ſurface. At the ſeaſon of flowering there alſo appear certain ſmall red heads, which contain the ſeeds for a new ſucceſſion of plants.

This plant is not ſo much known as it deſerves to be. It is an excellent aſtringent; a ſtrong decoction of it ſtops the overflowings of the menſes, and all other bleedings; it is remarkable againſt a ſpitting of blood, and hence it has got into general uſe in conſumptions, but that not ſo properly. It may be given in powder, but the other way is better.

The Lupine. *Lupinus ſativus albus.*

There are many lupines kept in gardens, but the beſt kind for uſe is the white-flowered; it grows to a yard high, the ſtalk is round, thick, firm, and of a pale green; the leaves ſtand on long foot-ſtalks, and are each compoſed of ſeven, eight, or nine long narrow ones, diſpoſed in the manner of fingers; theſe are alſo of a whitiſh green colour. The flowers are large and white, of the ſhape of a pea-bloſſom; the pods are hairy; a decoction of the ſeeds of lupines drank in the manner of barley-water, not only works by urine, but is good to bring down the menſes, and open all obſtructions. It is excellent in the beginning of conſumptions, jaundices, and dropſies, but when thoſe diſeaſes are advanced to a height, more powerful remedies are to be employed. A decoction made very ſtrong is good to waſh the heads of children that have breakings out upon them, they cleanſe and diſpoſe them to heal.

Golden Lungwort. *Pulmonaria aurea.*

A tall, erect, and beautiful plant, of the hawkweed kind, with yellow flowers and very hairy leaves; it is frequent in the mountainous parts of Europe, and we have it wild in ſome places in England upon walls, and in very dry places, but with us it is not common.

It is two feet high, the leaves are large and oblong, they grow half a dozen, or thereabout, immediately from the root, and have thick foot-ſtalks; they are oblong, broad, of a deep and often of a purpliſh colour, and are extremely hairy, the hairs being long, white, and ſet ſo thick, that they give it an aſpect of woollineſs; the ſtalk is round, ſlender, tolerably firm, upright, of a purpliſh colour, and alſo

hairy; the leaves on it are ſmaller than thoſe from the root, but like them in ſhape, and they are in the ſame manner very hairy; the flowers are not very large, but they are of a beautiful yellow, and they have the more ſingular aſpect, as the plant has ſo much whiteneſs; the ſeeds are winged with a white down.

The young leaves riſing from the root are the part uſed. They are of the ſame nature with thoſe of coltsfoot, but they poſſeſs their virtues in a much greater degree. In many other parts of Europe, where the plant is more common, it is a conſtant medicine in diſeaſes of the lungs, in coughs, aſthmas, and the firſt ſtages of conſumptions: It is beſt given in form of a ſtrong infuſion; and I have known it tried here with more ſucceſs than could be expected from ſo ſimple a remedy in caſes of ſuch conſequence. It is ſcarce wild, but it is eaſily propagated in gardens. Let but one plant of it ripen its ſeeds, and leave them to the chance of the winds, and the garden, the walls, and neighbouring places will never be without a ſufficient ſupply of it for all purpoſes.

M.

MACE. *Macis.*

THE ſpice we call *mace* is the covering of the ſtone or kernel of a fruit, within which is the nutmeg. The tree will therefore more naturally be deſcribed under the article NUTMEG; but it may be proper to ſay here, that the fruit of it is large and roundiſh, and has ſomewhat the appearance of a peach, being of nearly its bigneſs: The outer part is more like the green rind of a walnut than the fleſh of a peach: Within is the nutmeg, contained in a hard ſhell, and on the outſide of that ſhell is laid the mace, in a kind of thin, divided, yelloviſh leaves. It is of a ſoft and unctuous nature, and very fragrant, more ſo than the nutmeg itſelf.

Mace is a noble ſpice; it warms and ſtrengthens the ſtomach, and is good againſt pains in the head, ariſing from faults there: It is alſo good againſt cholics, and even outwardly applied will take effect. The mace bruiſed may be uſed for this purpoſe, or its oil by expreſſion.

MADDER. *Rubia Tinctorum.*

A ROUGH and unhandſome plant, cultivated for the ſake of its root, which is uſed by the dyers, and alſo in medicine. It is a foot and a half high; the ſtalk is ſquare and weak; the leaves ſtand ſix or eight at

every joint, diſpoſed ſtar-faſhioned, and they are of a duſky green colour, and very rough; they feel almoſt prickly; the flowers are little and yellow, and they grow from the boſoms of the leaves; the root is long, ſlender, and of a red colour.

A decoction of the freſh roots of madder works gently by urine, but it very powerfully opens obſtructions of the liver and ſpleen. It is very good againſt the gravel and jaundice.

The True Maidenhair. *Adiantum verum.*

A very beautiful plant, of the fern-kind, but exceeding the ordinary ferns very much in delicacy. The ſtalks are ſmall, black, and gloſſy; each divides towards the top into a great many branches, and on theſe ſtand the ſmaller leaves, which make up the complete one, or the whole plant; (for in this, as in the fern, every leaf is an entire plant) theſe are ſhort, blunt, rounded, and notched very beautifully and regularly at the edges, and they are of a pale green colour; the ſeeds are fixed to the edges of the under-ſide of the leaves, in form of a brown powder. The whole plant is uſed: Our druggiſts have it from France.

A decoction of the freſh plant is gently diuretic, and opens obſtructions, eſpecially of the lungs; but as we cannot eaſily have it freſh, and it loſes a great deal of the virtue in drying, the beſt expedient is to uſe the fine ſyrup of capellaire, which is made of an infuſion of the plant when in its perfection, with fine Narbonne honey. We ſuppoſe this is a trifle, but barley-water ſweetened with it is one of the beſt known remedies for a violent cough.

English Maidenhair. *Trichomanes.*

A very pretty little plant, of kin to the true maidenhair, and frequently uſed in its place; but this is very wrong, for its virtues are no greater, and it is unpleaſant. It grows eight inches high, and each leaf, as in the reſt of the fern-kind, is an entire plant. This leaf conſiſts of a vaſt number of ſmall ones, ſet on each ſide a middle rib, and they are very ſhort and obtuſe, of a roundiſh but ſomewhat oblong figure. The ſtalk is ſlender, black, and ſhining, and the little leaves are of a bright and ſtrong green colour; the ſeeds are lodged as in the reſt, in form of a brown duſt, on the under part of theſe leaves.

The plant grows frequently on the ſides of old wells, and on damp walls, and it is uſed entire. A ſyrup made from an infuſion of it is the beſt ſhift we could make for the true French capillaire; but that is ſo eaſy to be had, that no ſuch ſhift is neceſſary: An infuſion of the dry plant may alſo be uſed.

White Maidenhair. *Adiantum album.*

A very little plant of the fern-kind, and of the nature of the two others juſt deſcribed. Some will be ſurprized at the calling it a very little plant, having ſeen leaves a foot long, ſold in Covent-Garden under that name; but this is an impoſition: They ſell a kind of water-fern under this name. The real white maidenhair is not above two inches high. The ſtalks are very ſlender, and of a whitiſh green, not black as in the others. The leaves are divided into a great many ſmall parts, and at firſt ſight they have ſome reſemblance of the leaves of rue. The ſeeds are contained in brown lumps behind the leaves, covering the greateſt part of the ſurface.

This is not uncommon in old walls: It has the ſame virtues with the others againſt coughs, and a

decoction of it is alſo ſtrongly diuretic, and good againſt the gravel, and all ſtoppages of urine.

Black Maidenhair. *Adiantum nigrum.*

Another of the ſmall plants of the fern-kind, and more of the ſhape and form of the common ferns than any yet deſcribed. It is like the common fern of the divided kind, only very ſmall. It grows to eight or ten inches high. The ſtalks are thick, black, and gloſſy; the leaves are very beautifully divided into a great many parts; theſe are ſhort, of a dark ſhining green, and deeply notched at the edges, and they terminate in a ſharp point, not blunt, as ſome of thoſe already mentioned. The ſeeds lie on the edges of the under part of the leaves, in form of a brown duſt. It is not uncommon by wood-ſides, and in ſhady lanes.

A decoction of it works powerfully by urine, and it has the ſame virtue with the reſt in the cure of coughs.

Of theſe four, for they poſſeſs the ſame virtues, the preference is given to the firſt deſcribed, or true kind; next, to the Engliſh maidenhair; and in defect of both theſe, to the black kind. The white maidenhair is preferred to any againſt the gravel, and in ſuppreſſion of urine; but for the common uſe in coughs and hoarſeneſſes, it is the leaſt eſteemed of all.

There is another plant called by the name of *maidenhair*, which is yet to be deſcribed; it makes one of what are commonly called the *five capellery herbs*, but it is ſo diſtinct from the others, that it is beſt kept ſeparate. They are all kinds of fern: This is a ſort of moſs.

Golden Maidenhair. *Adiantum aureum.*

A little upright plant, but conſidered as a moſs, one of the largeſt of the kind. It grows four or five inches high when in perfection. The lower part of the ſtalk is covered, for an inch or more, with thick, ſhort, narrow leaves, ſharp at the point, and of a duſky green colour: Theſe ſtand in ſuch cluſters, that they quite hide the ſtalk; from the top of theſe riſe the pedicles ſupporting the heads; they are naked three or four inches high, ſlender, and of a browniſh, reddiſh, or blackiſh colour: The head upon the ſummit of theſe is ſingle, ſquare, and is covered with a woolly cap, of the figure of an extinguiſher, which falls off when the head is entirely ripe: This head is full of a fine duſt.

The plant is frequent in boggy places, and is to be uſed entire. Some talk of its being good in coughs, but the more frequent uſe of it is externally. They boil it in water, and waſh the head with it to make the hair grow thick.

The Common Mallow. *Malva.*

A wild plant, every where about our hedges, fields, and gardens. It is one among many inſtances that God has made the moſt uſeful plants the moſt common. The mallow grows three or four feet high; the ſtalk is round, thick, and ſtrong; the leaves are roundiſh, but indented and divided at the edges; the flowers are numerous, large, and red; the root is long and white, of a firm tough ſubſtance, and not diſagreeable taſte.

The whole plant is uſed, but the root has moſt virtue. The leaves dried, or freſh, are put in decoctions for clyſters, and the root may be dried, for it retains a great deal of virtue, but it is beſt freſh, and ſhould be choſen when there are only leaves

growing from it, not a ſtalk. It is to be boiled in water, and the decoction may be made very ſtrong, for there is nothing diſagreeable in the taſte: It is to be drank in quantities, and is excellent to promote urine, and take off the ſtrangury. It is good alſo in the ſame manner againſt ſharp humours in the bowels, and for the gravel.

There is a little kind of mallow that has whitiſh flowers, and lies flat upon the ground. This is of a more pleaſant taſte than the common mallow, and has the ſame virtues. A tea made of the roots and tops of this is very agreeable to the taſte, and is excellent for promoting the diſcharges by urine.

MARSH-MALLOW. *Althæa.*

A TALL wild plant, of the mallow-kind, frequent with us about ſalt marſhes, and the ſides of rivers where the tides come. It grows to four feet in height; the ſtalk is round, upright, thick, and ſomewhat hairy; the leaves are large, broad at the baſe, ſmall at the point, of a figure approaching to triangular, and indented round the edges; they are of a whitiſh green colour, and ſoft to the touch like velvet; the flowers are large and white, with ſometimes a faint bluſh of reddiſh. They are of the ſame ſize and ſhape with thoſe of the common mallow.

The root is moſt uſed. It is white, long, and thick, of an inſipid taſte, and full of a mucilaginous juice. Boiled in water, and the decoction made ſtrong, it is excellent to promote urine, and bring away gravel and ſmall ſtones; it alſo cures ſtranguries, and is good in coughs. Its virtues are the ſame with thoſe of the common mallow, but in a greater degree.

Vervain Mallow. *Alcea.*

A very beautiful plant, both in its flower and manner of growth, common in paſtures, and worthy to be cheriſhed in our gardens. It grows two feet high. The ſtalks are round, moderately thick, a little hairy, and very upright; the lower leaves are rounded, and divided ſlightly at the edges; thoſe on the ſtalk are cut into very ſmall parts, and in a very beautiful manner; the flowers are of a very bright red, and are three times as large as thoſe of the common mallow, and very beautiful; the ſeeds are diſpoſed in the ſame circular manner as in the common mallow; the root is white.

The root is the part uſed; it has the ſame virtue with that of the common mallow, but in a leſs degree. The leaves alſo have the ſame virtue, and are very pleaſant taken in tea.

Musk-Mallow. *Bamia Moſchata.*

A plant not unlike the vervain mallow in its aſpect, but a native only of the hotter countries. It is two feet high; the ſtalk is ſingle, round, thick, hairy, and upright; the lower leaves are roundiſh, only indented a little at the edges; the upper ones are divided into five parts pretty deeply; the flowers are of the ſhape of thoſe of the common mallow, and are large, but their colour is yellow; the ſeed is contained in a long huſk, or caſe, and is of a kidney-like ſhape, and of a ſweet perfumed ſmell.

The ſeed is the only part uſed, and that very rarely. It is ſaid to be good againſt the head-ach, but we ſeldom meet with it freſh enough to have any virtue.

MANDRAKE. *Mandragora.*

A PLANT, about which there have been a multitude of errors, but in which there is in reality nothing ſo ſingular as pretended. There are, properly ſpeaking, two kinds of mandrake, the one with round fruit and broad leaves, called the *male*; the other with oblong fruit, and narrower leaves, called the *female*: Their virtues are the ſame, but the male is generally preferred. They are natives of Italy, where they grow in woods, and on the banks of rivers: We keep them in gardens, but they grow there as freely as if native.

The mandrake has no ſtalk. The leaves riſe immediately from the root, and they are very large: They are a foot long, four inches broad in the middle, and of a duſky green colour and bad ſmell. The flowers ſtand upon foot-ſtalks of four inches high, ſlender, and hairy, and riſing immediately from the root. Theſe flowers are large, of a dingy purpliſh colour, and of a very bad ſmell; the fruit which follows is of the bigneſs and ſhape of a ſmall apple, or like a ſmall pear, according to the male or female kind: This is yellow when ripe, and is alſo of a very bad ſmell. The root is long and thick; it is largeſt at the head, and ſmaller all the way down: Sometimes it is divided into two parts, from the middle downwards, if a ſtone have lain in the way, or any other accident occaſioned it; but uſually it is ſingle. This is the root which is pictured to be like the human form; it is, when ſingle, no more like a man than a carrot or a parſnip is, and when by ſome accident it is divided, it is no more like than any other root which happens to have met the ſame accident. Thoſe roots which are ſhown about for money, and have the head, limbs, and figure of a human form, are made ſo by art, and they ſeldom uſe the real man-

drake-root for that purpoſe; they are often made of white briony-root, ſometimes of angelica; the people cut them into this ſhape, and put them into the ground again, where they will be ſometimes in part covered with a new bark, and ſo look natural. All the ſtory that they ſhriek when they are pulled up, and they uſe a dog to draw them out of the ground, becauſe it is fatal to any perſon to do it, and the like, are idle, falſe, and groundleſs, calculated only to ſurpriſe ignorant people, and get money by the ſhew. There is nothing ſingular in the root of the mandrake; and as to the terms *male* and *female*, the two kinds would be better diſtinguiſhed by calling the one the *broader leaved mandrake, with round fruit*, and the other the *narrower leaved mandrake, with oval fruit*. There are plants which are ſeparately male and female, as hemp, ſpinach, the date-tree, and the like; but there is nothing of this diſtinction in the mandrakes.

The freſh root of mandrake is a violent medicine; it operates both by vomit and ſtool, and few conſtitutions are able to bear it. The bark of the root dried, works by vomit alone, but very roughly. The fruit may be eaten, but it has a ſleepy quality, tho' not ſtrong. The leaves are uſed in fomentations and poultices to allay pains and ſwellings, and they do very well.

Moſt of the idle ſtories concerning the mandrake have taken their origin from its being named in ſcripture; and from the account there given of it, ſome have imagined it would make women fruitful; but this plant does not ſeem to be the thing intended by the Word, nor has it any ſuch virtues. What the vegetable is which is named in the ſcripture, and tranſlated *mandrake*, we do not know.

SWEET-MARJORAM. *Marjorana.*

A COMMON garden-plant, of no great beauty, but kept for the ſake of its virtues and uſe. It is a foot high. The ſtalks are firm, upright, and a little hairy; the leaves are broad, ſhort, and ſomewhat hairy, of a pale green colour, and not indented at the edges, and of a fine ſmell. At the tops of the branches ſtand a kind of ſoft ſcaly heads, three quarters of an inch long, and from theſe grow the flowers, which are ſmall and white. The ſeeds are very ſmall, and the root is fibrous. The whole plant has a fine ſmell.

The whole plant is to be uſed freſh; and it is beſt taken by way of infuſion. It is good againſt the head-ach and dizzineſs, and all the inferior order of nervous complaints; but they talk idly who call it a remedy for apoplexies. It gently promotes the menſes, and opens all obſtructions. The dried herb may be given for the ſame purpoſe in powder, but it does not ſucceed ſo well.

WILD-MARJORAM. *Origanum.*

A WILD plant, frequent about way-ſides in many places, but ſuperior to the other in beauty and in virtues. It very well deſerves a place, on both accounts, in our gardens. It grows a foot and a half high. The ſtalk is firm, very upright, a little hairy, and of a purpliſh brown colour, extremely regular in its growth. The leaves are broad and ſhort, of the bigneſs of one's thumb-nail, and of a dark green colour; two ſtand at every joint, and they have long foot-ſtalks. The flowers grow on the tops of the branches; there ſtand on theſe long ſcaly heads, of a beautiful form, and purple colour; and from different parts of thoſe ariſe the flowers, which are little,

but of a beautiful red colour. The whole plant has a fragrant ſmell, and an aromatic taſte.

The freſh tops of the herb are to be uſed. They are beſt taken in infuſion. They ſtrengthen the ſtomach, and are good againſt habitual cholics. They are alſo good in head-achs, and in all nervous complaints; and they open obſtructions, and are good in the jaundice, and to promote the menſes. Chymiſts ſell what they call *oil of origanum*, but it is commonly an oil made from garden-thyme; it is very acrid: A drop of it put upon lint, and laid to an aching tooth, often gives eaſe.

Cretic-Marjoram. *Origanum Creticum.*

A BEAUTIFUL plant, of the wild marjoram kind, frequent wild in the eaſt, and kept in our gardens. It grows a foot high. The ſtalks are ſquare, upright, and brown; the leaves are oblong and broad; they are of a whitiſh colour, and ſtand on long foot-ſtalks: There grow ſcaly heads at the tops of the branches, as in the other kinds, and from theſe burſt out the flowers, which are little and white.

The tops are the part uſed; our druggiſts keep them dry; but they generally have loſt ſo much of their virtue, that the freſh tops of our own wild marjoram, or the dried ones of the laſt ſeaſon, are better.

Marigold. *Calendula.*

A PLANT too common in our kitchen-gardens to need much deſcription. It is a foot high. The ſtalks are thick, angulated, and not very upright; the leaves are long, narrow at the baſe, and broader toward the end; the flowers are large and yellow, and they ſtand at the tops of the branches. The whole plant is of a pale bluiſh green colour, and feels clammy. The root is fibrous.

A tea made of the freſh-gathered flowers of marigold, picked from the cups, is good in fevers: It gently promotes perſpiration, and throws out any thing that ought to appear on the ſkin.

The Mastic-Tree. *Lentiſcus.*

A native of the warmer countries, but not uncommon in our gardens. It grows to the bigneſs of our apple-trees, and is as irregular in the diſpoſition of its branches. They are covered with a greyiſh bark, and are brittle. The leaves are compoſed, each of about four pairs of ſmall ones, without any odd leaf at the end; they are affixed to a kind of rib or pedicle, which has a film running down it on each ſide; they are oblong, narrow, and pointed at the ends; the flowers are little and yellowiſh, and they grow in tufts. The fruit is a bluiſh berry.

We uſe the reſin which drops from the wounded branches of this tree. The tree itſelf is common in France and Italy, but it yields no reſin there; we have that from Greece: It is whitiſh, hard, and in little lumps. It is good for all nervous diſorders, and acts as a balſam. There is ſcarce any thing better for a ſpitting of blood, or in the firſt ſtage of a conſumption: It is alſo good againſt the whites, and in the gleets after gonorrhœas. Some have a cuſtom of chewing it, to preſerve the teeth and ſweeten the breath.

Herb-Mastic. *Marum.*

A pretty little plant, native only of the warmer climates, but common in our gardens. It is a foot high, and the ſtem and principal branches are ſhrubby or woody in their texture; the ſmaller ſhoots are whitiſh; the leaves grow two at each joint; they are little, oblong, and pointed, of a pale colour, and fragrant ſmell like maſtic, reſinous, and very agreeable.

At the tops of the ſtalks ſtand a kind of downy or hairy ſpikes or ears, of a peculiarly odd appearance, and from out of theſe come the flowers, which are little and white. The root is ſmall.

The whole plant is uſed dry. It may be given in infuſion, or in powder: It is a good ſtrengthener of the ſtomach, and an aſtringent. It ſtops the overflowings of the menſes: The powder of the tops is beſt given for this purpoſe in red wine, a ſcruple for a doſe.

Syrian Mastic Thyme. *Marum Syriacum.*

A beautiful little plant, native of the warm countries, but not unfrequent in our gardens. It grows a foot high. The ſtalks are brittle, ſlender, and whitiſh; the leaves ſtand two at each joint; they are ſmall, in ſhape very like thoſe of thyme, and of a pale green colour on the upper-ſide, and white and hoary underneath; the flowers are ſmall and red; they grow in a kind of little ſpikes, or oblong cluſters, at the tops of the ſtalks, and have hoary white cups. The whole plant has a very penetrating but pleaſing ſmell, and an aromatic taſte. Cats are fond of this plant, and will rub it to pieces in their fondneſs. It is good for all diſorders of the head and nerves. It may be given in powder, but the moſt common way to take it is in ſnuff.

Masterwort. *Imperatoria.*

A plant of no beauty, kept in our gardens for its virtue. It grows two feet high. The ſtalks are round, ſtriated, hollowed, upright, not very ſtrong. The leaves are each compoſed of three ſmaller; they are of a dark green colour, blunt at the points, and indented about the edges; the flowers are ſmall and white; they ſtand in little umbels at the tops of the branches. The roots are long, brown, divided, of a ſtrong ſmell, and a ſharp aromatic taſte.

The root is the part uſed: It is good in fevers, in diſorders of the head, and of the ſtomach and bowels. It is beſt taken up freſh, and given in a light infuſion; it promotes ſweat, and is a better medicine for that purpoſe than moſt of the foreign roots kept by druggiſts.

Maudlin. *Ageratum.*

A common plant in our gardens, not without beauty, but kept more for its virtues. It is a foot high. The ſtalk is round, upright, firm, ſingle, and of a pale green; the leaves are very numerous, and they are longiſh, narrow, and ſerrated about the edges; the flowers are ſmall and naked, conſiſting only of a kind of thrums, but they ſtand in a large cluſter together at the top of the ſtalk, in the manner of an umbel. The whole plant has a pleaſant ſmell.

The whole is uſed freſh or dried, but it is beſt freſh gathered. An infuſion of it taken for a continuance of time is good againſt obſtructions of the liver: It operates by urine.

Stinking-Mayweed. *Cotula Fœtida.*

A common wild plant in corn-fields and waſte grounds, with finely divided leaves, and white flowers like daiſies. The ſtalk is round and ſtriated; the herb grows a foot high; the leaves are like thoſe of chamomile, only of a blacker green, and larger; the flowers ſtand ten or a dozen near one another at the tops of the branches, but they grow ſeparate, not in a cluſter. The whole plant has a ſtrong ſmell.

The infuſion of the freſh plant is good in all hyſteric complaints, and it promotes the menſes. The herb boiled ſoft is an excellent poultice for the piles.

MEDICAL LIBRARY

At the tops of the ſtalks ſtand a kind of downy or hairy ſpikes or ears, of a peculiarly odd appearance, and from out of theſe come the flowers, which are little and white. The root is ſmall.

The whole plant is uſed dry. It may be given in infuſion, or in powder: It is a good ſtrengthener of the ſtomach, and an aſtringent. It ſtops the overflowings of the menſes: The powder of the tops is beſt given for this purpoſe in red wine, a ſcruple for a doſe.

Syrian Mastic Thyme. *Marum Syriacum.*

A beautiful little plant, native of the warm countries, but not unfrequent in our gardens. It grows a foot high. The ſtalks are brittle, ſlender, and whitiſh; the leaves ſtand two at each joint; they are ſmall, in ſhape very like thoſe of thyme, and of a pale green colour on the upper-ſide, and white and hoary underneath; the flowers are ſmall and red; they grow in a kind of little ſpikes, or oblong cluſters, at the tops of the ſtalks, and have hoary white cups. The whole plant has a very penetrating but pleaſing ſmell, and an aromatic taſte. Cats are fond of this plant, and will rub it to pieces in their fondneſs. It is good for all diſorders of the head and nerves. It may be given in powder, but the moſt common way to take it is in ſnuff.

Masterwort. *Imperatoria.*

A plant of no beauty, kept in our gardens for its virtue. It grows two feet high. The ſtalks are round, ſtriated, hollowed, upright, not very ſtrong. The leaves are each compoſed of three ſmaller; they are of a dark green colour, blunt at the points, and indented about the edges; the flowers are ſmall and white; they ſtand in little umbels at the tops of the branches. The roots are long, brown, divided, of a ſtrong ſmell, and a ſharp aromatic taſte.

The root is the part uſed: It is good in fevers, in diſorders of the head, and of the ſtomach and bowels. It is beſt taken up freſh, and given in a light infuſion; it promotes ſweat, and is a better medicine for that purpoſe than moſt of the foreign roots kept by druggiſts.

Maudlin. *Ageratum.*

A common plant in our gardens, not without beauty, but kept more for its virtues. It is a foot high. The ſtalk is round, upright, firm, ſingle, and of a pale green; the leaves are very numerous, and they are longiſh, narrow, and ſerrated about the edges; the flowers are ſmall and naked, conſiſting only of a kind of thrums, but they ſtand in a large cluſter together at the top of the ſtalk, in the manner of an umbel. The whole plant has a pleaſant ſmell.

The whole is uſed freſh or dried, but it is beſt freſh gathered. An infuſion of it taken for a continuance of time is good againſt obſtructions of the liver: It operates by urine.

Stinking-Mayweed. *Cotula Fœtida.*

A common wild plant in corn-fields and waſte grounds, with finely divided leaves, and white flowers like daiſies. The ſtalk is round and ſtriated; the herb grows a foot high; the leaves are like thoſe of chamomile, only of a blacker green, and larger; the flowers ſtand ten or a dozen near one another at the tops of the branches, but they grow ſeparate, not in a cluſter. The whole plant has a ſtrong ſmell.

The infuſion of the freſh plant is good in all hyſteric complaints, and it promotes the menſes. The herb boiled ſoft is an excellent poultice for the piles.

MEDICAL LIBRARY

Meadow-Sweet. *Ulmaria.*

A wild plant, frequent about the ſides of rivers, with divided leaves, and beautiful tufts of white flowers. It is four feet high. The ſtalk is round, ſtriated, upright, firm, and of a pale green, or ſometimes of a purple colour. The leaves are each compoſed of about three pair of ſmaller, ſet on a thick rib, with an odd leaf at the end; they are of a fine green on the upper-ſide, and whitiſh underneath, and they are rough to the touch; the flowers are ſmall and white, but they ſtand ſo cloſe, that the whole cluſter looks like one large flower. The ſeeds are ſet in a twiſted order.

An infuſion of the freſh tops of meadow-ſweet is an excellent ſweat, and it is a little aſtringent. It is a good medicine in fevers, attended with purgeings. It is to be given, a baſon once in two hours.

The Mechoacan Plant. *Mechoacana.*

A climbing plant, native of the Weſt-Indies. It is capable of running to a great height when it can be ſupported: It will climb to the tops of tall trees. The ſtalks are angulated, ſlender, green, and brittle; and when broken, they yield a vaſt quantity of an acrid milky juice. The leaves ſtand ſingly; they are broad and not very long, and of a beautiful ſhape, terminating in a point. The flowers are large, and of the ſhape of a bell; they are of a deep purple on the inſide, and of a pale red without; and the ſeed-veſſels are large, as are alſo the ſeeds. The root is whitiſh, and very thick.

The root is the part uſed: Our druggiſts keep it dry. It is in ſlices, and is whitiſh and brittle. It is an excellent purge, but there requires a large doſe to work tolerably; this has occaſioned its being much

leſs uſed than worſe medicines that operate more ſtrongly, and can be taken with leſs diſguſt; but it is to be lamented that ſo little uſe is made of it.

The Medlar-Tree. *Meſpilus.*

A common tree in our gardens. It is of the bigneſs of an apple-tree, and grows in the ſame irregular manner: The branches have thorns on them. The leaves are longer and narrower than in the apple-tree, and they terminate in a point. The bloſſoms are large and white; the fruit is roundiſh, and open at the bottom; and, till very much mellowed, is of an auſtere taſte.

A ſtrong decoction of unripe medlars is good to ſtop violent purgings. The ſeeds work by urine, and are good againſt the gravel; but there are ſo many more powerful things at hand they are ſeldom uſed.

Melilot. *Melilotus.*

A common wild plant, with three leaves at a joint, and long ſtraggling ſpikes of yellow flowers. It is a foot and a half high, or more. The ſtalk is weak, ſlender, green, and ſtriated; the leaves are oblong, and blunt at the ends; they are ſerrated round the edges, and of a bright green colour; the flowers are ſmall, and of the ſhape of the flowers of tares, but little; and there follows each a roundiſh pod, rough and green. The whole plant has a ſingular but not diſagreeable ſmell, and the leaves are the food of ſo many inſects, that they are commonly gnawn to pieces.

The freſh plant is excellent to mix in poultices to be applied to ſwellings. It was once famous in a plaiſter uſed for dreſſing of bliſters, but the apothe-

caries uſed to play ſo many bad tricks to imitate the green colour it was expected to give, that the plaiſter is now made without it.

The Melon. *Melo.*

A TRAILING herb, with yellow flowers, and large fruit, well known at our tables. The plant grows to eight or ten feet long, but is not erect; the ſtalks are angulated, thick, and of a pale green; the leaves are large and broad, ſomewhat roundiſh, and not deeply divided, as in moſt of the creeping plants of this ſort. There are tendrils on the ſtalk for its laying hold of any thing. The flowers are very large, and open at the mouth; the fruit is oblong and rough, more or leſs on the ſurface, containing ſeeds, with a juicy matter within.

The ſeeds are the part uſed: They are cooling, and work by urine: They are beſt given in an emulſion beat up with barley-water: This is a good drink in fevers given warm.

The Mezereon Shrub. *Mezereum.*

A VERY pretty ſhrub, native of many parts of Europe, and frequent in our gardens. It is four feet high, and very much branched; the branches ſtand irregularly, and they are very tough and firm; the leaves are oblong and narrow; they grow in cluſters from certain little ſwellings on the bark; the flowers are ſmall and red; they are hollow, and are ſucceeded by oblong berries, which are black when ripe; the root is woody and creeping, and the plant is not eaſily deſtroyed, when once well eſtabliſhed.

The bark of the root, or the inner bark of the branches, is to be uſed; but it is a violent medicine, and muſt be given with great caution, in ſmall doſes, and only to thoſe who have ſtrong conſtitutions: It will cauſe vomiting, and bloody ſtools to people that

are tender, or to any, in a large doſe; but to robuſt people, it only acts as a briſk purge: It is excellent in dropſies, and other ſtubborn diſorders; and the beſt way to give it is in a light infuſion.

MILLET. *Millium.*

A PLANT of the graſs-kind, large, upright, and not without its beauty. It is four feet high. The ſtalk is round, hollow, jointed, thick, and firm; the leaves are long and broad, of a pale green, and hairy; the flowers and ſeeds grow at the top of the ſtalk, in a vaſt cluſter, ſo heavy that the head uſually hangs down: They are altogether of the graſs-kind. The flowers are inconſiderable, and the ſeeds ſmall, hard, and white.

The ſeeds are uſed ſometimes in the manner of barley, to make a drink, which is good in fevers, and againſt heat of urine; it is alſo a little aſtringent. The grain is eaten alſo as barley.

MILKWORT. *Polygala.*

A COMMON little plant upon our heaths, and in dry paſtures, with numerous leaves, and blue or white flowers, (for this is a variety, and cauſed by accidents) diſpoſed in looſe ſpikes. The root is long, and divided into ſeveral parts; the ſtalks are very numerous, and very much branched; they are ſlender and weak, and they ſpread themſelves upon the ground, forming a little green tuft. There is great variety in the appearance of the plant, beſide what has been already named in the colour of the flower; nor is that indeed the only variation there: So that it has been divided into two or three kinds by ſome writers, but as all theſe will riſe from the ſame ſeed, and only are owing to the ſoil and expoſure, the plant is without doubt the ſame in every appearance, and its virtues are the ſame in which ever ſtate it is taken. When

it grows in barren places, the ſtalks are not more than three or four inches in length, and the leaves are very numerous, ſhort, and of an oval figure. The flowers are in this caſe ſmall and blue, ſometimes whitiſh, ſtriated with blue, and ſometimes entirely white. When the plant grows in a ſomewhat more favourable ſoil, the leaves are oblong, and narrow, pointed at the ends, and of a beautiful green; the ſtalks are five or ſix inches long, and the flowers in this caſe are commonly blue, and this is the moſt ordinary ſtate of the plant. When it grows in very favourable places, as upon the damp ſide of a hill, where there are ſprings, and among the tall graſs, then its leaves are longer, its ſtalks more robuſt and more upright, and its flowers are red. Theſe are the ſeveral appearances of this little plant, and it is all one in which of them it is taken. The root is often of a conſiderable thickneſs, and ſingle, but it is more uſually divided and ſmaller; it is whitiſh, and of a diſagreeable acrid taſte.

This plant had paſſed unregarded as to any medicinal uſe, till Dr. Tennent brought into England the ſenega root, famous in America againſt the effects of the bite of the rattleſnake, and found here to be of ſervice in pleuriſies: But when it was found, that this was the root of a kind of milkwort, not very different from our own, we tried the roots of our own kind, and found them effectual in the ſame caſes. As to the poiſonous bites of a ſerpent, they are ſo uncommon here, that we need not regard that part of the qualities; but we find it good in the other diſorder, and in all diſeaſes in which the blood is thick and ſizy. The freſh root is beſt, but it has not its full virtue except in ſpring, when the ſtalks are juſt ſhooting out of the ground, for this reaſon it is moſt proper to take it up at that time, and dry it for the ſervice of the year. When freſh, it is beſt given in infuſion: But when dried, it is kept in powder.

SPEAR-MINT. *Mentha vulgaris*

A COMMON plant in our gardens, and of frequent uſe in the kitchen. It is two feet high; the ſtalks are ſquare, ſingle, upright, firm, and of a pale green; the leaves ſtand two at a joint; they are long narrow, of a blackiſh green, ſerrated at the edges, and ſharp-pointed; the flowers are ſmall and purple; and they ſtand in long ſpikes, in a beautiful manner. The whole plant has a fragrant ſmell, and a pleaſant aromatic taſte.

The whole plant is uſed, freſh or dried, and is excellent againſt diſorders of the ſtomach. It will ſtop vomiting, and create an appetite; it is beſt given in the ſimple diſtilled water, well made, or elſe in the form of tea. The freſh herb bruiſed, and applied outwardly to the ſtomach, will ſtop vomitings.

WATER-MINT. *Mintha Aquatica.*

A COMMON wild plant of the mint-kind, not ſo much regarded as it deſerves. It is frequent by ditch ſides. It is a foot and half high. The ſtalks are ſquare, upright, firm, and ſtrong, and generally of a brown colour; the leaves are broad and ſhort; they ſtand two at a joint, and are of a browniſh, or deep green colour, ſomewhat hairy, and ſerrated about the edges; the flowers are larger than thoſe of common mint, and are of a pale red colour; they ſtand in round thick cluſters at the tops of the ſtalks, and round the upper joints. The whole plant has a ſtrong ſmell, not diſagreeable, but of a mixed kind between that of mint and penny-royal; and the taſte is ſtrong and acrid, but it is not to be called diſagreeable.

A diſtilled water of this plant is excellent againſt cholics, pains in the ſtomach and bowels, and it will bring down the menſes. A ſingle doſe of it often cures the cholic. The uſe of peppermint has ex-

cluded this kind from the preſent practice, but all three ought to be uſed. Where a ſimple weakneſs of the ſtomach is the complaint, the common mint ſhould be uſed; when cholicky pains alone, the peppermint; and where ſuppreſſions of the menſes are in the caſe, this wild water-mint: They may all be given in the way of tea, but a ſimple water diſtilled from them, and made ſufficiently ſtrong, is by much the moſt efficacious.

PEPPERMINT. *Mentha Piperata.*

A PLANT kept in our gardens, but much more reſembling the wild mint laſt deſcribed, than the ſpearmint, both in form and qualities. It grows two feet and a half high. The ſtalk is ſquare and firm, upright, and of a pale green; the leaves ſtand two at each joint: They are broad, not very long, of a dark green, and ſerrated deeply at the edges. The flowers grow in thick ſpikes, but not very long ones; they are large, and of a pale red. The whole plant has an agreeable quick ſmell, and a hote taſte like pepper, but not diſagreeable.

The whole plant is uſed freſh, or dried; but the beſt way is to give the diſtilled water. It cures the cholic often almoſt inſtantaneouſly, and it is good againſt the gravel.

LONG-LEAVED WILD MINT. *Menthaſtrum.*

A SINGULER wild plant, of the mint-kind, but not without its beauty. It is two feet high, and grows with great regularity. The ſtalk is ſquare, firm, and of a pale green, very upright, and at the top full of young ſhoots; the leaves are long and narrow; they are of a whitiſh green, deeply indented about the edges, and pointed at the ends: The flowers ſtand in ſpikes at the tops of the young ſhoots; they are pale,

red, and large, and very numerous. The whole plant has a ſtrong ſmell.

The whole plant is uſed freſh or dried, and is to be given in way of tea, for the diſtilled water is diſagreeable. It ſtrengthens the ſtomach, and promotes the menſes. It is in this latter reſpect a very valuable medicine, but the uſe of it muſt be continued ſome time.

The Myrtle. *Myrtus.*

A little ſhrub very beautiful in its manner of growth, a native of Italy, but common in our gardens. The trunk is covered with a rough brown bark; the branches are numerous, ſlender, tough, and reddiſh; the leaves are very beautiful; they are ſmall, ſhort, of a fine green, pointed at the ends, not ſerrated at the edges, and they ſtand in great numbers, and in a beautiful order upon the branches. The flowers ſtand on ſhort foot-ſtalks; they are large, white, and full of threads; the fruit is a round black berry, as large as the biggeſt pea, and has a crown at the top; the leaves when bruiſed have an extremely fragrant ſmell; the ſhrub will bear our climate better than is imagined; there are in ſome places hedges of it five or ſix feet high, that ſtand the winters, without the leaſt hurt.

The leaves and berries of the myrtle are uſed; they are cordial and aſtringent. A ſtrong infuſion of the freſh leaves is good againſt a ſlight purging, ſtrengthening the ſtomach, at the ſame time that it removes the complaint. The dried leaves, powdered, are excellent againſt the whites. The berries are good againſt bloody fluxes, overflowings of the menſes, and in ſpitting of blood.

Misletoe. *Viſcus.*

A SINGULAR plant, native of our own country, but growing not on the earth as other herbs, but upon the branches of trees; on which it makes a very conſpicuous figure. It grows two feet high, and its branches are ſo numerous, and ſpread in ſuch a manner, that the whole plant is as broad as tall, and appears a round yellow tuft of that diameter, quite unlike to the tree on which it grows, in fruit, leaves, and bark. The main ſtem is half an inch diameter, the branches divide always by two's, and they eaſily break at the joints or diviſions. The bark is throughout of a yellowiſh colour, though with ſome mixture of green on the young ſhoots; the leaves are alſo yellowiſh; they grow two at each joint: They are fleſhy, oblong, narroweſt at the bottom, and broader toward the top. The flowers are yellow, but they are ſmall and inconſiderable; the fruit is a white berry, round, and of the bigneſs of a pea; this is full, of a tough, clammy juice.

The leaves of miſletoe, dried and powdered, are a famous remedy for the falling-ſickneſs. They are good in all nervous diſorders, and have been known to perform great cures taken for a continuance of time.

The Indian Myrobalan-Tree. *Myrobalanus Indica.*

A TREE native of the warmer climates, and not yet got into our gardens. It grows to twenty feet high. The branches are numerous, and very irregularly diſpoſed; the leaves are long and narrow; the flowers are white, and like the bloſſoms of our plum-trees; and the fruit reſembles a plum, oblong, and fleſhy, with a long ſtone or kernel, but the fruit is generally

gathered before the ſtone hardens, ſo that it ſeems to have none.

We uſed to have the fruit brought over, and it was given as a purge, but at preſent none regard it. There are alſo four others of the ſame kind, the names of which we ſee in books of medicine, but the fruits are not to be met with, nor is it much loſs, for we have better things to anſwer their purpoſes. They were called the *citrine*, *chebule belleric*, and *emblec myrobalanus;* they are alſo uſed as purges, but common ſena is worth them all.

Moonwort. *Lunaria.*

A very ſingular and very pretty plant, frequent in ſome parts of the kingdom, but in moſt very ſcarce. It grows ſix inches high; and conſiſts of the ſtalk, one leaf, and the flowers. The ſtalk is round, firm, and thick; it is naked to the middle, and there grows the leaf, which is compoſed as it were of ſeveral pairs of ſmall ones, or rather is a whole and ſingle leaf divided deeply, ſo as to reſemble a number of ſmaller; theſe are rounded and hollowed, and thence came its name of *moonwort*; from the baſe of this leaf, the ſtalk is continued up an inch or two, and then riſe the cluſters of flowers and ſeeds; theſe are very ſmall, and like duſt, of a brown colour. The leaves of moonwort dried and given in powder, ſtop purgings, and the overflowings of the menſes. The freſh plant bruiſed and laid to a cut, ſtops the bleeding, and heals it in a day or two.

Hairy Tree-Moss. *Uſnea.*

A very ſingular plant, of the moſs-kind, frequent in our large foreſts, but rare elſewhere; it grows to the branches of old oaks and buſhes, and hangs down from them in long ſtrings. The tufts of it are often a foot long, and in the whole two or three inches

thick; they are compoſed of a great quantity of ſtalks and branches, the largeſt not bigger than a large pack-thread; theſe are of a grey colour, and are compoſed of a ſoft bark, and a firm white fibre within; this bark is often cracked, and the branches appear jointed; the ſmall fibres of the plant reſemble hairs: On the larger grow at certain ſeaſons, little hollow brown bodies. Theſe contain the ſeeds, but they are too minute to be diſtinguiſhed ſingly. The whole plant is dry and ſapleſs as it grows, and has not the leaſt appearance of leaves upon it.

The powder of this moſs, is an excellent aſtringent; it is to be dried in an oven, and beat in a mortar: The white fibres will remain, when the ſoft part has gone through the ſieve; they are of no uſe; the other has all the virtue. It is good againſt the whites, againſt overflowings of the menſes, and bloody fluxes, and againſt ſpitting of blood; it deſerves to be much more regarded, than it is in the preſent practice. The doſe is half a dram.

Cup Moss. *Muſcus Pyxidatus.*

A common little plant on ditch banks, by wood ſides, and in dry barren places. It conſiſts of a thin coat of a leafy matter, ſpread upon the ſurface of the ground, and of a kind of little cups riſing from it. The leafy part is dry and without juice, divided into ſeveral portions, and theſe irregularly notched; it is grey or greeniſh on the upper-ſide, and whitiſh underneath. The cups are half an inch high. They have each a thick ſtem, and an open mouth, and rather reſemble a clumſy drinking-glaſs, than a cup. They are of a grey colour, often with ſome odd mixture of green, of a duſky ſurface, ſometimes they grow one from the edge of another, up to the third or fourth ſtage: They have alſo many other accidental varieties; and ſometimes they bear little brown lumps, which are ſuppoſed to contain the ſeeds.

The whole plant is to be uſed; it is to be taken freſh from the ground, ſhook clean, and boiled in water, till the decoction be very ſtrong; then there is to be added as much milk as there is of the liquor, and it is to be ſweetened with honey. It is an excellent medicine for childrens' coughs: It is recommended particularly in that called the *chincough*.

Common Ground-Moss. *Muſcus Terreſtris vulgaris.*

A pretty but very ſmall plant. It creeps on the ground, or riſes in tufts two or three inches high, according to the place. The ſtalks are very ſlender, but they are thick covered with leaves, and their branches are diſpoſed in ſuch a manner, that they in ſome degree reſemble fern. The leaves are very ſmall, of a triangular ſhape, and of a bright green; they ſtand looſely on the lower parts of the ſtalks, but on the upper, they lie cloſe and cover them. It very rarely produces its ſeeds; but when it does, there riſe naked and very ſlender pedicles an inch long from the boſoms of the leaves, and at the top of each of theſe, ſtands a little oblong head, of a brownish red colour, covered with a cap like an extinguiſher in ſhape, and full of fine green duſt.

The whole plant is uſed; it is to be dried and powdered, and is given with ſucceſs againſt overflowings of the menſes, and all bleedings; it is alſo good againſt the whites.

Moss of an Human Skull. *Muſcus ex Cranio Humano.*

There is not any particular kind of moſs that grows upon the human ſkull, nor does any moſs by growing upon it acquire any particular virtues, whatever fanciful people may have imagined. In England, we commonly uſe the moſs juſt deſcribed, when it happens to run over an human ſkull, that has been

laid by accident, or has been laid on purpoſe in its way: In other places, they uſe the ſort of white moſs, that grows upon our old apples-trees. Both theſe are in their own nature aſtringents, but they are as good if taken from trees, or off the ground, as if found upon theſe bones. They have been ſuppoſed good againſt diſorders of the head, when gathered from the ſkull, but this is all fancy.

Mother-of-Thyme. *Serpyllum.*

A common wild little plant, but very pretty, very fragrant, and of great virtues. It grows in little tufts by way ſides, and on dry hillocks; the ſtalks are round, ſlender, reddiſh, and ſix or eight inches long, but they do not ſtand upright; the leaves are very ſmall, and of an oval figure; they grow two at each joint, and they are ſmooth, and of a bright green; the flowers are of a pale red, and ſtand in little tufts at the tops of the ſtalks; the whole plant has a very fragrant ſmell, and an aromatic and agreeable taſte.

It is a better medicine in nervous caſes, than moſt that are uſed; the freſh plant or dried, may be drank as tea; it is very agreeable to the taſte, and by a continuance will cure all the common nervous diſorders. The nightmare is a very troubleſome diſeaſe, and often puzzles the phyſician, but it will be perfectly cured by a tea made of this plant.

Motherwort. *Cardiaca.*

A tall and not unhandſome wild plant. It grows wild about farm-yards, and in dry places. It is a yard high; the ſtalk is ſquare, thick, upright, and firm; the leaves ſtand on long foot-ſtalks, two at each joint; they are divided into three parts, the middle one being the longeſt, and are deeply indented at the edges; of a dark green colour, and bad ſmell; the flowers are of a pale red: they grow in a kind of

prickly cups, from the boſoms of the leaves, ſurrounding the ſtalks; the root creeps, and is whitiſh.

The whole plant may be uſed dried, but the tops freſh cut are beſt; they are to be given in a ſtrong infuſion or decoction; it is good againſt hyſteric complaints, and it promotes the menſes; it is famous for curing the palpitation of the heart, when that ariſes from an hyſteric cauſe: For there are palpitations which nothing can cure.

MOUSE-EAR. *Piloſella.*

AN exceeding pretty little plant, with whitiſh leaves, and large bright yellow flowers, frequent on our ditch-banks; the leaves grow in little cluſters, and are longiſh and broad, of a dark green on the upper-ſide, but white underneath, and ſo much of the under part is uſually ſeen, that the whole looks whitiſh; the ſtalks trail upon the ground, and take root at every joint; the leaves have long hairs upon them; the ſtalks which ſupport the flowers riſe ſingle; they are hairy, they have no leaves, and each bears only one flower; this ſtands on the top, and is large, ſomewhat of the form of the dandelion-flower, but of a beautiful pale yellow.

The ſeeds are winged with down, and the ſtalks, when broken, yield a milky juice, but in no great quantity. The plant has ſcarce any ſmell, but an auſtere bitteriſh taſte.

A decoction of the freſh gathered herb is excellent againſt the bleeding of the piles; and the leaves, boiled in milk, may be applied externally: It is good alſo in the overflowings of the menſes, and in all other bleedings, and in the whites.

MUGWORT. *Artemiſia.*

A TALL and not unhandſome plant, frequent on ditch banks, having divided leaves and flowers like thoſe of wormwood. It is a yard high or more; the ſtalk is round, ſtriated, often purpliſh, firm, upright, and branched; the leaves ſtand irregularly upon it; they are large, and compoſed of a number of ſmall parts, which are ſharply indented and pointed; they are of a duſky green on the upper-ſide, and white underneath; the flowers are little and browniſh; they ſtand in ſmall tufts all along the upper parts of the branches, but they ſtand upright, whereas thoſe of wormwood hang down; they often have a tinge of purple before they are quite opened, which adds greatly to the beauty of the plant.

The leaves of mugwort are to be uſed freſh or dried; they are beſt given in infuſion, and they are excellent to promote the menſes, and againſt all the common hyſteric complaints.

THE MULBERRY-TREE. *Morus.*

A LARGE and irregularly growing tree, common, in our gardens. The branches are numerous and ſpreading; the leaves are very beautiful, large, broad, of a bright green, pointed at the end, and delicately ſerrated round the edges; the flowers are ſmall and inconſiderable; the fruit is ſufficiently known; it is large, oblong, juicy, and compoſed of a great number of ſmall granules: It is uſually black when ripe; but there is a kind with white fruit.

The bark of the root of the mulberry tree freſh taken off and boiled in water, makes an excellent decoction againſt the jaundice; it opens obſtructions of the liver, and works by urine. A very pleaſant ſyrup is made from the juice of the ripe fruit, with twice the quantity of ſugar; it is cooling, and is good for ſore mouths, and to quench thirſt in fevers.

White Mullien. *Verbaſcum album.*

A tall and ſtately wild plant, ſingular for its white leaves and long ſpike of yellow flowers, and frequent on our ditch banks, and in dry places. It grows ſix feet high; the leaves riſing from the root, are a foot long, as broad as one's hand, ſharp-pointed, ſerrated about the edges, and covered with a white downy or woolly matter; the ſtalk is thick, firm, and very upright, and is covered with ſmaller leaves of the ſame kind: the flowers are yellow, and large; they ſtand in ſpikes, of two feet long, three or four only opening at a time; the ſeeds are ſmall and brown; the root is long and ſhaggy.

The leaves are uſed, and thoſe are beſt which grow from the root, when there is no ſtalk; they are to be given in decoction againſt the overflowings of the menſes, the bloody-flux, the bleeding of the piles, and ſpitting of blood, boiled in milk; they are alſo excellent by way of poultice to the piles, and other painful ſwellings.

Mustard. *Sinapi.*

A common rough-looking plant, wild in many places, but kept alſo in gardens for the ſake of the ſeed. It grows a yard high. The ſtalk is round, ſmooth, thick, and of a pale green; the leaves are large and of a coarſe green, deeply indented, and placed irregularly; they hang down, and have a diſagreeable aſpect; the flowers are ſmall and yellow, they grow in great numbers on the tops of the branches, and the pods of the ſeed follow them. The whole plant is of an acrid pungent taſte. The root is white.

The ſeeds are the part uſed; what we call muſtard is made of them, and it is very wholeſome; it ſtrengthens the ſtomach, and procures an appetite. The ſeed bruiſed, and taken in large quantities,

works by urine, and is excellent againſt rheumatiſms and the ſcurvy. It alſo promotes the menſes. Laid upon the tongue it will ſometimes reſtore ſpeech in in palſies.

Treacle-Mustard. *Thlaſpi Diſcordis.*

A little wild plant, with broad leaves, white flowers, and flat pods, common in dry places. It is eight inches high; the ſtalk is round, and ſtriated; the leaves are oblong and broad, of a pale green colour, and dentated round the edges. They grow irregularly on the ſtalks, and have no foot-ſtalks. The flowers are very ſmall; a little tuft of them ſtands at the top of the ſtalk, and the pods follow them, ſo that the uſual appearance, when the plant is in flower, is a ſhort ſpike of the pods, with a little cluſter of flowers on the top; the pods are large, flat, roundiſh, and edged with a leafy border; the ſeeds are ſmall, brown, and of a hot taſte. The ſeed is the part uſed, but our druggiſts generally ſell the ſeeds of the garden-creſs in the place of it. It is not much regarded.

Mithridate Mustard. *Thlaſpi Incano Folio.*

A little wild plant, common in corn-fields. It is of a foot high; the ſtalks are round, firm, upright, and not much branched; the leaves are long, narrow, a little hairy, and of a duſky green; the flowers are ſmall and white, and the pods which follow them are roundiſh and little, not flatted as in the former kind, nor ſurrounded with a foliaceous edge. The leaves grow very thick upon the ſtalk, and each has as it were a couple of little ones at the baſe.

The ſeed of this is uſed alſo, at leaſt in name, for the creſs-ſeed ſerves for both: The matter is not great, for they ſeem to have the ſame virtues, and neither is minded, except as ingredients in compoſitions.

The Myrrh-Tree. *Myrrha.*

A tree concerning which we have but very imperfect accounts, and thoſe not well warranted for genuine. All that we hear of it is, that the branches are numerous, and have thorns on them; that the leaves are oblong, broad, and of a ſtrong ſmell, and that the bark of the trunk is rough, and of a greyiſh colour.

The gum-reſin, called *myrrh*, is certainly procured from ſome tree in the hot countries, but whether this be a true deſcription of that tree there is no certainty. The gum itſelf is a very great medicine; it opens all obſtructions of the viſcera, is good in conſumptions, jaundices, and dropſies, and is excellent for promoting the menſes, and aſſiſting in the natural and neceſſary diſcharges after delivery: It is to be given in powder, the tincture diſſolves it but imperfectly; but this is excellent againſt diſorders of the teeth and gums.

N.

Sweet Navew. *Napus.*

A Plant kept in ſome gardens, and not unlike the common turnip in its aſpect and appearance. It grows a yard high. The ſtalk is round, ſmooth, and of a pale green; the leaves ſtand irregularly on it, and they are oblong, broad at the baſe, where they ſurround the ſtalk, and narrower all the way to the point; the leaves which grow from the root are much larger, and deeply cut in at the ſides, and they are all of a pale or bluiſh green colour; the flowers are ſmall and yellow, and the pods are long; the ſeed is round and black; the root is white and large, and has the taſte but not the round ſhape of the turnip, for it is rather like a parſnip.

The ſeeds are uſed, but not much. A decoction of them is ſaid to promote ſweat, and to drive any thing out to the ſkin, but it does not ſeem to deſerve any great regard.

Wild Navew. *Bunias.*

The plant which produces what we call *rape-ſeed*, and in ſome places *cole-ſeed*. Though wild on our ditch-banks, it is ſown in ſome places for the ſake of its ſeed, from which an oil is made for mechanical purpoſes. The plant is two or three feet high, the ſtalk is round, upright, ſmooth, thick, firm, and of

a pale green; the lower leaves are long and narrow, very deeply divided at the edges, and of a pale or bluiſh green colour; thoſe on the ſtalk are of the ſame colour, but ſmall, narrow, and little divided; the flowers are ſmall, and of a bright yellow; the pods are long, and the ſeeds are round, large, and black, they are of a ſomewhat hot and ſharp taſte; the ſeeds are uſed for the ſame purpoſes as the other, and are ſuppoſed to have more virtue, but probably neither have much.

Colic Nard. *Nardus Celtica.*

A little plant of the valerian-kind, frequent in many parts of Europe, but not a native of England. It is ſix or eight inches in height; the ſtalks are round, ſtriated, and greeniſh; the leaves at the bottom are oblong, narrow at the baſe, and rounded at the end, and of a yellowiſh green colour; thoſe on the ſtalks ſtand in pairs, they are ſmall and deeply cut; the flowers ſtand in a little cluſter at the top of the ſtalk; they are ſmall and white, the root is long, ſlender, and creeping.

The root is the part uſed; our druggiſts keep it dry. It is beſt taken in infuſion. It operates by urine, and in ſome degree by ſweat, but that very moderately. It is recommended in fevers and in the jaundice.

Nettle. *Urtica.*

A plant too common to need much deſcription. It is three feet high. The ſtalks are angulated and rough; the leaves are large, and of a beautiful ſhape, regularly from a broad baſe diminiſhing to a ſharp point, and nicely ſerrated round the edges; the colour of theſe, and of the ſtalks, is a duſky green, and they are both covered with a kind of prickles, which eaſily make their way into the ſkin, and

N.

Sweet Navew. *Napus.*

A Plant kept in ſome gardens, and not unlike the common turnip in its aſpect and appearance. It grows a yard high. The ſtalk is round, ſmooth, and of a pale green; the leaves ſtand irregularly on it, and they are oblong, broad at the baſe, where they ſurround the ſtalk, and narrower all the way to the point; the leaves which grow from the root are much larger, and deeply cut in at the ſides, and they are all of a pale or bluiſh green colour; the flowers are ſmall and yellow, and the pods are long; the ſeed is round and black; the root is white and large, and has the taſte but not the round ſhape of the turnip, for it is rather like a parſnip.

The ſeeds are uſed, but not much. A decoction of them is ſaid to promote ſweat, and to drive any thing out to the ſkin, but it does not ſeem to deſerve any great regard.

Wild Navew. *Bunias.*

The plant which produces what we call *rape-ſeed*, and in ſome places *cole-ſeed*. Though wild on our ditch-banks, it is ſown in ſome places for the ſake of its ſeed, from which an oil is made for mechanical purpoſes. The plant is two or three feet high, the ſtalk is round, upright, ſmooth, thick, firm, and of

a pale green; the lower leaves are long and narrow, very deeply divided at the edges, and of a pale or bluiſh green colour; thoſe on the ſtalk are of the ſame colour, but ſmall, narrow, and little divided; the flowers are ſmall, and of a bright yellow; the pods are long, and the ſeeds are round, large, and black, they are of a ſomewhat hot and ſharp taſte; the ſeeds are uſed for the ſame purpoſes as the other, and are ſuppoſed to have more virtue, but probably neither have much.

Colic Nard. *Nardus Celtica.*

A little plant of the valerian-kind, frequent in many parts of Europe, but not a native of England. It is ſix or eight inches in height; the ſtalks are round, ſtriated, and greeniſh; the leaves at the bottom are oblong, narrow at the baſe, and rounded at the end, and of a yellowiſh green colour; thoſe on the ſtalks ſtand in pairs, they are ſmall and deeply cut; the flowers ſtand in a little cluſter at the top of the ſtalk; they are ſmall and white, the root is long, ſlender, and creeping.

The root is the part uſed; our druggiſts keep it dry. It is beſt taken in infuſion. It operates by urine, and in ſome degree by ſweat, but that very moderately. It is recommended in fevers and in the jaundice.

Nettle. *Urtica.*

A plant too common to need much deſcription. It is three feet high. The ſtalks are angulated and rough; the leaves are large, and of a beautiful ſhape, regularly from a broad baſe diminiſhing to a ſharp point, and nicely ſerrated round the edges; the colour of theſe, and of the ſtalks, is a duſky green, and they are both covered with a kind of prickles, which eaſily make their way into the ſkin, and

have at their baſe a hollow bag of ſharp juice, which gets into the wound, occaſioning that ſwelling, inflammation, and pain that follows. The naked eye may diſtinguiſh theſe bags at the bottom of the prickles on the ſtalk of a full-grown nettle, but a microſcope ſhews them all over. The flowers of the nettle are yellowiſh, little, and inconſiderable, the ſeeds are ſmall and round, the root is long and creeping.

The juice of the nettle is good againſt overflowings of the menſes. The root is to be given in infuſion, and it works powerfully by urine, and is excellent againſt the jaundice.

The Roman Nettle. *Urtica Romana.*

A wild plant of the nettle-kind, but not common. It is two feet high. The ſtalks are round, and of a deep green colour. The leaves are large, and of a deep green alſo, broad at the baſe, narrow to the point, and deeply ſerrated. The flowers are ſmall and inconſiderable; the fruit is a round ball as big as a large pea; it ſtands on a long foot-ſtalk, and is of a deep green colour, and full of ſmall brown ſeeds. All the plant is covered with the ſame ſort of prickles as the common nettle, but they are ſhorter and finer; they are ſilvery white at the tips, and have the ſame bag of liquor at the baſe, and they ſting very terribly, more a great deal than the common nettle.

The ſeeds are the part uſed. They are good againſt coughs, ſhortneſs of breath, and hoarſeneſſes; the ſeeds of the common nettle are commended for this purpoſe, but theſe are greatly preferable. The beſt way of giving them is in the manner of tea, ſweetened with honey.

Common Nightshade. *Solanum vulgare.*

A wild plant that over-runs gardens, and all other cultivated places, if not continually weeded out. It grows two feet high. The ſtalks are roundiſh, thick, but not very erect or ſtrong, and of a duſky green. The leaves are broad and roundiſh, but they terminate in a point. They are of a dark green colour, and ſtand on foot-ſtalks. The flowers grow in little cluſters, ten or a dozen in a bunch; they are white, with a yelloviſh centre, and they are ſucceeded by round black berries.

The leaves are uſed freſh, and only externally. They are very cooling, and are applied, bruiſed, to inflammations, ſcalds, burns, and troubleſome eruptions on the ſkin.

Deadly Nightshade. *Solanum Lethale.*

It may ſeem ſtrange to mix a poiſon among medicines, but a part of this herb has its uſes. This is a wild plant of a dull and diſmal aſpect. It grows five feet high. The ſtalks are angulated, and of a deep green; the leaves are very large, broad, and flat, and they are alſo of a dull dead green; the flowers ſtand ſingly on long foot-ſtalks ariſing from the boſom of the leaves, and they have alſo the ſame diſmal aſpect; they are large, hollow, and hang down. On the outſide they are of a duſky colour, between brown and green, and within they are of a very deep purple; theſe are ſucceeded by berries of the bigneſs of cherries, black and ſhining when ripe, and full of a pulpy matter, of a ſweetiſh and mawkiſh taſte; the root is long; the berries are fatal; children have often eat them and periſhed by it. The leaves externally applied are cooling and ſoftening; they are good againſt the ringworm and tetters, and againſt hard ſwellings; they have very great virtue in this

reſpect, but the plant ſhould be kept out of the way of children, or never ſuffered to grow to fruit, as the leaves only are wanted.

The Nutmeg-Tree. *Nux Moſchata.*

A tall ſpreading tree, native only of the warm climates: The trunk is large, and the branches are numerous and irregular; the bark is of a greyiſh colour, and the wood light and ſoft; the leaves are large, long, and ſomewhat broad; they are not unlike thoſe of the bay-tree, but bigger, and are of a beautiful green on the upper-ſide, and whitiſh underneath; they ſtand irregularly, but often ſo nearly oppoſite, that they ſeem in pairs, as we ſee in the leaves of ſome of our willows. The bloſſom is of the ſhape and bigneſs of that of our cherry-tree, but its colour is yellow; the fruit which ſucceeds this is of the bigneſs of a ſmall peach, and not unlike it in the general form; when cut open there appears firſt the fleſhy coat, which is a finger thick, and of a rough taſte, then the mace ſpread over a woody ſhell, in which is the nutmeg. We often have the whole fruit ſent over preſerved.

The nutmeg is an excellent ſpice, it ſtrengthens the ſtomach, and aſſiſts digeſtion. It will ſtop vomitings, and is good againſt the cholic; when roaſted before the fire, and mixed with a ſmall quantity of rhubarb, it is the beſt of all remedies againſt purgeings.

O.

The Oak. *Quercus.*

A noble and ſtately tree, native of our country, and no where growing to ſo great perfection. It is very tall, and though irregular in the diſpoſition of its branches, that very irregularity has its beauty; the trunk is very thick; the branches are alſo thick, and often crooked; the bark is brown and rough; the leaves are large, oblong, broad, and deeply cut in at the edges, and they are of a ſhining green; the flowers are inconſiderable; the fruit is the acorn, well known. Galls are produced upon the oak, not as fruit, but from the wounds made by an inſect.

The bark of the oak is a very powerful aſtringent, it ſtops purgings and overflowings of the menſes. Given in powder, a decoction of it is excellent for the falling down of the uvula, or, as it is called, the *falling of the palate of the mouth.* Whenever a very powerful aſtringent is required, oak-bark demands the preference over every thing: If it were brought from the Eaſt-Indies it would be held ineſtimable.

The Scarlet-Oak. *Ilex.*

A shrub not much regarded on its own account, but from the inſect called *kermes,* which is found upon it, and has ſometimes been ſuppoſed a fruit of it: The ſhrub thence obtained its name of the *ſcarlet-oak.* It grows only ſix or eight feet high. The

branches are tough, and covered with a ſmall greyiſh bark; the leaves are an inch long, three quarters of an inch broad, of a figure approaching to oval, ſerrated about the edges, and is a little prickly; the flowers are ſmall and inconſiderable; the fruit is an acorn like that of the common oak, but ſmaller, ſtanding in its cup; the kermes, or ſcarlet grain, is a ſmall round ſubſtance of the bigneſs of a pea, of a fine red colour within, and of a purpliſh blue without, covered with a fine hoary duſt, like a bloom upon a plum. It is an inſect at that time full of young. When they intend to preſerve it in its own form, they find ways of deſtroying the principle of life within, elſe the young come forth, and it is ſpoiled. When they expreſs the juice, they bruiſe the whole grains, and ſqueeze it through a hair-cloth; they then add an equal weight of fine ſugar to it, and ſend it over to us under the name of *juice of kermes*; this is uſed in medicine much more than the grain itſelf.

It is a cordial good againſt faintings, and to drive out the ſmall-pox, and for women in child-bed. It ſupports the ſpirits, and at the ſame time promotes the neceſſary diſcharges.

Oak of Jerusalem. *Botrys.*

A little plant, native of the warmer countries, and kept in our gardens, with leaves which have been ſuppoſed to reſemble thoſe of the oak-tree, whence it got its name, and ſmall yellowiſh flowers. The ſtalk is a foot and a half high, roundiſh, angulated a little, or deeply ſtriated, and of a pale green; the leaves are of a yellowiſh green, and of a rough ſurface; they are oblong, ſomewhat broad-pointed at the ends, and deeply cut in on the ſides; the flowers ſtand in abundance of long ſpikes on the tops of the branches; they are very ſmall and inconſiderable.

The whole plant has a pleaſant ſmell, particularly the young ſhoots which are to bear the flowers.

The freſh plant is to be uſed, and it it is beſt taken in the manner of tea, or in infuſion. It is good in aſthmas, hoarſeneſs, and coughs, and it promotes the menſes and diſcharges after delivery.

THE OLIVE-TREE. *Olea.*

A LARGE tree, native of the warmer parts of Europe and the Eaſt. The trunk is thick and rough; the branches are numerous, and ſtand irregularly; their bark is grey and ſmooth; the leaves are longiſh and broad, of a deep green on the upper-ſide, and whitiſh underneath, and of a firm texture; the flowers are ſmall and yellow, the fruit is of the bigneſs of a ſmall plum, but of a longer ſhape, and has a very large ſtone within.

The oil is the only produce of this tree uſed in medicine, it is preſſed out of the fruit, and is excellent in diſorders of the lungs, and againſt cholics and ſtoppages of urine; but in the latter caſes the oil of ſweet-almonds, freſh preſſed, is preferable, and for the firſt linſeed oil; ſo that oil of olives, or, as it is called, *ſalad oil*, is ſeldom uſed in medicine, unleſs theſe others cannot be had.

THE ONION. *Cepa.*

A COMMON plant in our gardens, known at ſight by its hollow tubular leaves. It grows two feet and a half high. The leaves are long, rounded, of the thickneſs of a man's finger, and hollow; the ſtalk is round alſo, and has at the top a round cluſter of little flowers; theſe are of a mixed purpliſh and greeniſh colour, and of a ſtrong ſmell, as has the whole plant.

The root is the part uſed; it is roundiſh, and compoſed of a great multitude of coats laid one over another. A ſyrup made of the juice of onions and honey is excellent for an aſthma.

The Opoponax Plant. *Opoponax.*

A large and robuſt plant, of which we have but imperfect deſcriptions. It is a native of the Eaſt, and has not been brought into Europe. It is ſaid to be eleven or twelve feet high; the ſtalk round, thick, and hollow, the leaves very large, and each compoſed of a vaſt number of ſmaller ſet upon a divided ſtalk. The flowers, we are informed, ſtand in very large round cluſters at the tops of the ſtalks, and that the ſeeds are broad, brown, and of a ſtrong ſmell, ſtriated on the ſurface, and flattiſh. The root is ſaid to be long and large, and full of an acrid and milky juice.

We uſe a kind of reſin which is ſaid to be collected from this root after it has been wounded, to make it flow in ſufficient quantity: But the whole account comes to us very imperfect, and upon no very ſound authority, however it ſeems probable.

The reſin is browniſh or yellowiſh, and in ſmall pieces. It is an excellent medicine againſt nervous complaints; and particularly againſt diſorders of the head. It works by urine, and promotes the menſes, and has a tendency to operate, though very gently, by ſtool. It is not ſo much uſed as it deſerves to be. I have experienced excellent effects from it.

The Orange-Tree. *Aurantia Malus.*

A beautiful and valuable tree, native of Spain, Italy, and the Eaſt. It grows to a conſiderable bigneſs, and its branches ſpread irregularly. The bark of the trunk is brown and rough, that of

Orrach, or Arrach, P. 63.



Common Orpine



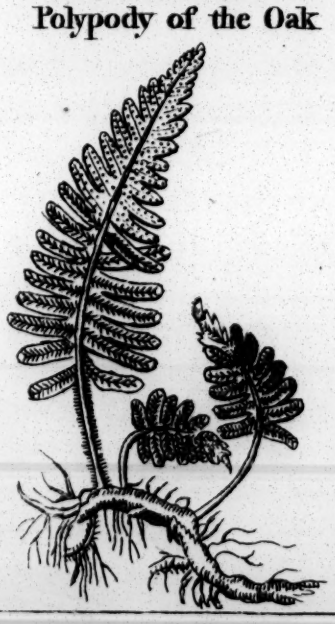
Plantain

Penny Royal





Polypody of the Oak



White Poppy



the branches is ſmooth and greyiſh. The leaves are large and very beautiful; they are oblong and moderately broad, and the foot-ſtalk has an edge of a leafy matter on each ſide, giving it a heart-like appearance. The flowers are white, large, fragrant, and very beautiful. The fruit is enough known.

The ſour or Seville orange is the kind uſed in medicine, but the peel of this more than the juice or pulpy part. A pleaſant ſyrup is made of Seville orange-juice, by melting in it twice its weight of the fineſt ſugar; and a ſyrup equally pleaſant, tho' of another kind, is made of an infuſion of the peel: But the great uſe of the peel is in tincture or infuſion as a ſtomachic. It is for this purpoſe to be pared off very thin, only the yellow part being uſeful, and to be put into brandy or wine, or to have boiling water poured on it freſh or dry. If a little gentian and a few cardamon-ſeeds be added to this tincture, or infuſion, it is as good a bitter as can be made; it prevents ſickneſs of the ſtomach and vomitings, and is excellent to amend the appetite.

ORPINE. *Telephum.*

A VERY beautiful wild plant, of a foot high, or more, with freſh green leaves and tufts of bright red flowers, common in our hedges in autum in many parts of England. The ſtalk is round and fleſhy; the leaves are oblong, broad, and indented round the edges, and their colour is a bluiſh green. The flowers are ſmall, but they are very beautiful; the root is white and thick; the whole plant has a fleſhy appearance, and it will grow, out of the ground, a long time, taking its nouriſhment from the air.

The juice of orpine is good againſt the bloody-flux: The beſt way of giving it is made into a thin

ſyrup, with the fineſt ſugar, and with the addition of ſome cinnamon.

Ox-Eye. *Buphthalmum.*

A very beautiful wild plant, common in the north of England, but not in other parts of the kingdom. It grows a foot and a half high. The ſtalk is round, firm, and branched; the leaves are numerous; they are divided each into a multitude of fine ſegments, ſo that at a diſtance they ſomewhat reſemble the leaves of yarrow, but they are whitiſh. The flowers are large and yellow, they ſomewhat reſemble a marigold in form, and they ſtand at the tops of the branches.

The freſh herb is uſed; they boil it in ale, and give it as a remedy for the jaundice; it works by urine.

P.

Palma Christi. *Ricinus.*

A Foreign plant, kept in our gardens more for its beauty than uſe. The ſtem is thick, and looks woody toward the bottom. It grows ſix feet high, and on the upper part is covered with a ſort of mealy powder, of a bluiſh colour. The leaves are large and very beautiful; they are ſomewhat like thoſe of the vine, but they are divided deeply into ſeven or more parts, which are alſo ſharply ſerrated at the edges, and they ſtand upon long foot-ſtalks, which are not inſerted at the edge, but in the middle of the leaf. The flowers are ſmall; they grow in bunches toward the top of the plant. The ſeeds grow upon the trunk of the plant in different places: Three are contained in huſks, and they have over them ſeverally a hard ſhell.

The kernels of theſe ſeeds are the part uſed, but they are very little regarded at preſent. There uſed to be three or four kinds of them kept by the druggiſts under different names, but nobody now minds them: They are very violent in their operation, which is both upwards and downwards, and have been given in dropſies and rheumatiſms.

The Oily Palm-Tree. *Palma Oleoſa.*

A very beautiful tree, native of Africa and America. It grows moderately high. The trunk is

naked all the way to the top, where the leaves grow in vaſt quantities: They are long and narrow, and the foot-ſtalks on which they ſtand are prickly. The flowers are ſmall and moſſy; the fruit is of the bigneſs of a plum, oblong and flattiſh, and is covered over with a tough and fibrous coat. From this fruit the natives expreſs what they call *palm-oil*: It is a ſubſtance of the conſiſtence of butter, and of a pleaſant, though very little taſte.

This oil is the only produce of the tree uſed; they eat it upon the ſpot, but we apply it externally againſt cramps, ſtrains, pains in the limbs, and weakneſſes; but we ſeldom meet with it freſh enough to be fit for uſe; and at preſent it has given place to the famous opodeldoc, and to ſeveral other things which have the ſame qualities in a much greater degree.

Panic. *Panicum.*

A very ſingular and pretty plant of the graſs-kind, cultivated in ſome parts of Europe. The ſtalk is very thick and firm, round, jointed, and a yard high. The leaves are graſſy, but they are large and broad; the flowers and ſeeds are contained in a long ear, which is broad and flat; it is compoſed of ſeveral ſmaller ears, arranged on the two ſides of the ſtalk; theſe ſpikes are hairy; the ſeed is round, and is much like millet, only ſmaller.

The ſeed is the only part uſed. It is good againſt ſharp purgings, bloody-fluxes, and ſpitting of blood.

The Pariera Brava. *Pariera Brava.*

A climbing ſhrub of South-America, the root of which has lately been introduced into medicine. It grows to twelve or fourteen feet in height, if there be trees or buſhes to ſupport it, elſe it lies upon the

ground, and is ſhorter. The ſtalks are woody, light, and covered with a rough bark, which is continually coming off in ſmall flakes; the leaves are large and broad; the flowers are ſmall, and of a greeniſh colour, and the berries are round, and, when ripe, black; the root is large, woody, and very long and creeping.

The root is uſed. It is of a browniſh colour, rough on the ſurface, and woody, but looſe in its texture. It is to be given in infuſion. It is an excellent medicine in the gravel, and in ſuppreſſions of urine, as alſo in the quinzy, and in pleuriſies and peripneumonies. It works the moſt powerfully, and the moſt ſuddenly, by urine, of any medicine; and is ſo excellent in forcing away gravel and ſmall ſtones, that ſome have pretended it a remedy for the ſtone, and ſaid it would diſſolve and break it. This is going too far; no medicine has been found that has that effect, nor can it be ſuppoſed that any can. Great good has been done by thoſe medicines which the Parliament purchaſed of Mr. Stephens, more than, perhaps, by any other whatſoever, in this terrible complaint; but they never diſſolved a large and hard ſtone. Indeed, there needs no more to be aſſured of this, than to examine one of thoſe ſtones; it will not be ſuppoſed, any thing that the bladder can bear, will be able to diſſolve ſo firm and ſolid a ſubſtance.

PARSLEY. *Petroſelinum.*

A VERY common plant in our gardens, uſeful in the kitchen, and in medicine. It grows to two feet in height. The leaves are compoſed of many ſmall parts; they are divided into three, and then into a multitude of ſub-diviſions; they are of a bright green, and indented; the ſtalks are round, angulated, or deeply ſtriated, ſlender, upright, and branched; the flowers are ſmall and white, and they ſtand in large tufts at the tops of the branches; the ſeeds

are roundiſh and ſtriated; the root is long and white.

The roots are the part uſed in medicine. A ſtrong decoction of them is good againſt the jaundice. It operates powerfully by urine, and opens obſtructions.

Parsley-Piert. *Percicier.*

A little wild plant, common amongſt our corn, and in other dry places, with ſmall pale leaves, and hairy drooping ſtalks. It does not grow to more than three or four inches in length, and ſeldom ſtands well upright. The ſtalks are round and whitiſh; the leaves ſtand irregularly; they are narrow at the baſe, and broad at the end, where they are divided into three rounded parts; the flowers are very ſmall; they grow in cluſters at the joints, and are of a greeniſh colour. The ſeed is ſmall and round. The root is fibrous.

The whole plant is uſed; and it is beſt freſh. An infuſion of it is very powerful againſt the gravel. It operates violently, but ſafely, by urine, and it opens obſtructions of the liver; whence it is good alſo in the jaundice. There is an opinion in many places of its having a power of diſſolving the ſtone in the bladder, but this is idle: There is, however, a great deal of good to be done in nephritic caſes, by medicines which have not this power.

Macedonian Parsley. *Petroſelinum Macedonicum.*

A plant kept in ſome of our gardens. It is two feet high. The ſtalk is ſlender, branched, and hairy; the leaves are compoſed of many parts, and thoſe are ſmall and rounded; thoſe on the upper-part of the ſtalk are more finely divided; the flowers are ſmall and white, like thoſe of common parſley, and they

ſtand like them in cluſters on the tops of the ſtalks; the ſeeds are ſmall, ſomewhat hoary, and of a duſky colour.

The ſeed is uſed, and it is beſt given in powder. It operates powerfully by urine, and it is good againſt ſtoppages of the menſes, and in the gravel and cholics, ariſing from that cauſe. It is alſo recommended againſt the dropſy and jaundice.

WILD PARSNIP. *Paſtinaca Sylveſtris.*

A WILD plant, common about our road-ſides. It is three feet high. The ſtalk is ſtraight, upright, round, ſtriated, and yellowiſh. The leaves are compoſed of many broad diviſions, and reſemble thoſe of the garden-parſnip, but they are ſmaller; the flowers are little and yellow; they grow at the tops of the ſtalks in large rounded tufts, and the ſeeds are flat, and of an oval figure; the root is long, white, and well taſted.

The root is to be uſed. A ſtrong decoction of it works by urine, and opens all obſtructions. It is good againſt the gravel and the jaundice, and will bring down the menſes.

THE PAVANA SHRUB. *Pavana.*

A SHRUBBY plant of the Eaſt Indies, of a beautiful, as well as ſingular aſpect. It is ſix or ſeven feet high. The ſtem is woody, firm, and naked almoſt to the top; the leaves grow upon long foot-ſtalks, and they all riſe nearly together at the upper part of the ſtem; they are large, of a rounded figure, and divided at the edges pretty deeply into ſeveral parts; their colour is a deep green; the flowers are ſmall, and of a greeniſh colour; the fruit is of the bigneſs of a hazel nut; the wood is not very firm, and when cut, yields a milky juice, of a very diſagreeable ſmell.

The wood and the ſeeds are uſed; and they have both the ſame violent operation by vomit and ſtool; but the wood given in infuſion, and in a moderate doſe, only purges, and that, though briſkly, without any danger. It is good in dropſies, and in other ſtubborn diſorders, and is excellent againſt rheumatic pains. Some recommend it as a ſpecific againſt the ſciatica. The ſeeds are what are called *grana tiglia*; but though much ſpoken of by ſome writers, they are at this time very little uſed in the ſhops.

The Peach-Tree. *Perſica Malus.*

A tree very frequent againſt our garden-walls. The trunk is covered with a brown bark; the branches grow irregularly; the leaves are beautiful; they are long, narrow, and elegantly ſerrated at the edges; the bloſſoms are large, and of a pale red; the fruit is too well known to need much deſcription: It conſiſts of a ſoft pulpy matter, covered by a hairy ſkin, and incloſing a hard ſtone, in which is a kernel of a pleaſant bitter taſte.

The flowers are to be uſed. A pint of water is to be poured, boiling hot, on a pound weight of peach-bloſſoms; when it has ſtood four and twenty hours, it is to be poured off through a ſieve, without ſqueezing, and two pound of loaf-ſugar is to be diſſolved in it over the fire; this makes an excellent ſyrup for children. It purges gently, and ſometimes will make them puke a little. They have ſo frequent occaſion for this, that people who have children have continual uſe for it.

Pellitory of the Wall. *Parietaria.*

A wild plant frequent on old walls, with weak branches and pale green leaves. It grows a foot high, but ſeldom altogether erect. The ſtalks are round, tender, a little hairy, jointed, and often pur-

pliſh; the leaves ſtand irregularly on them, and are an inch long, broad in the middle, and ſmaller at each end; the flowers ſtand cloſe upon the ſtalks, and are ſmall and inconſiderable, of a whitiſh green colour when open, but reddiſh in the bud.

The whole plant is uſed, and it is beſt freſh. An infuſion of it works well by urine. It is very ſerviceable in the jaundice, and is often found a preſent remedy in fits of the gravel, the infuſion being taken largely.

Pellitory of Spain. *Pyrethrum.*

A very pretty little plant kept in our gardens. It is eight inches high. The ſtalk is round and thick; the leaves are very finely divided, ſo that they reſemble thoſe of the chamomile, but they are of a pale green, thick, and fleſhy, and the ſtalk is purple; the flowers ſtand at the tops of the branches, and are very pretty; they are of the ſhape and ſize of the great daiſy, or ox-eye, white at the edges, yellow in the middle, and red on the back or underſide; the root is long, and ſomewhat thick, of a very hot taſte.

The root is uſed: We have it at the druggiſts. Its great acridneſs fills the mouth with rheum on chewing, and it is good againſt the toothach. It is alſo good to be put into the mouth in palſies, for it will, ſometimes alone, by its ſtimulation, reſtore the voice.

Penny-Royal. *Pulegium.*

A wild plant, creeping about on marſhy places, with little leaves, and tufts of red flowers at the joints. The ſtalks are a foot long, round, and often of a reddiſh colour; the leaves are ſmall, broad, and pointed at the ends, and of a pale green colour; the flowers ſtand round the joints in thick cluſters; they

are like thoſe of mint, and of a pale red, and the cups in which they ſtand are green, and a little hairy. The whole plant has a ſtrong penetrating ſmell, and an acrid but not diſagreeable taſte.

The whole plant is uſed, freſh or dried; but that which grows wild is much ſtronger than the larger kind, which is cultivated in gardens. The ſimple water is the beſt way of taking it, though it will do very well in infuſion, or by way of tea. It is excellent againſt ſtoppages of the menſes.

Black-Pepper. *Piper nigrum.*

An eaſtern plant, of a very ſingular kind. It grows ſix or eight feet in length, but the ſtalks are not able to ſupport themſelves upright; they are round, green, jointed, and thick, and when they trail upon the ground, roots are ſent forth from theſe joints; the leaves are large, of an oval figure, of a firm ſubſtance, and ribbed highly; they ſtand on ſhort pedicles, one at each joint; the flowers are ſmall and inconſiderable; they grow to the ſtalk; the fruit ſucceeds, which is what we call *pepper*; they hang upon a long ſtalk, twenty or forty together; they are green at firſt, but when ripe they are red; they grow black and wrinkled in drying. The largeſt and leaſt wrinkled on the coat are the beſt grains.

The fruit is uſed, and it is excellent againſt all coldneſſes and crudities upon the ſtomach; it gives appetite in theſe caſes, and aſſiſts digeſtion; it is alſo good againſt dizzineſſes of the head, and againſt obſtructions of the liver and ſpleen, and againſt cholics. We are apt to neglect things as medicines that we take with food; but there is hardly a more powerful ſimple of its kind than pepper, when given ſingly, and on an empty ſtomach.

WHITE PEPPER. *Piper album.*

THE common white pepper we meet with is made from the black, by ſoaking it in ſea-water till it ſwells, and the dark wrinkled coat falls off; but this, though the common, is not the true white pepper; there is another kind which is natural, and has no aſſiſtance from art. The white pepper plant has round, thick, and whitiſh ſtalks; they lie upon the ground, and have large joints; at each joint ſtands a ſingle leaf, which is long and narrow, ſharp at the end, and ribbed; the flowers grow on little ſtalks, hanging down from the joints; they are ſmall and yellow; the fruit is round; at firſt green, and when ripe, white; which is gathered and dried for uſe.

This fruit is uſed. The common white pepper is milder than the black; that is, it is black pepper, which has loſt a part of its virtue: This poſſeſſes all the qualities of the other, and yet it has not ſo ſharp a taſte.

THE LONG PEPPER PLANT. *Piper longum.*

AN American plant, in ſome degree reſembling the other peppers, in its general growth, but not at all in its fruit; the ſtalk is round, thick, jointed, and of a deep green colour: It is not able to ſupport itſelf, but climbs upon buſhes; the leaves are long and narrow; they ſtand one at each joint, upon long foot-ſtalks; the flowers grow upon the outſide of the fruit; they are ſmall and inconſiderable; the fruit which is what we call *long pepper*, is an inch and a half long, and as thick as a large quill, marked with ſpiral lines, and divided into cells within, in each of which is a ſingle ſeed.

This has the ſame virtues with the common black pepper, but in a leſs degree; it is not ſo hot and acrid, and therefore will be borne upon the ſtomach

when that cannot. It is excellent to aſſiſt digeſtion, and prevent cholics.

The Jamaica Pepper-Tree. *Piper Jamaicenſe.*

An American tree, in all reſpects different from the plants which produce the other kinds of pepper, as is alſo the fruit altogether different. It ſhould not be called pepper; the round ſhape of it was the only thing that led people to give it ſuch a name. The Jamaica pepper-tree is large and beautiful; the trunk is covered with a ſmooth brown bark; the branches are numerous, and they are well covered with leaves; the tree is as big and high as our pear trees; the leaves are oblong and broad, of a ſhining green colour; they grow in pairs, and they ſtand on long pedicles; the flowers grow only at the extremities of the branches; they ſtand a great many together, and are ſmall; the fruit which ſucceeds, is a berry, green at firſt, and afterwards becoming of a reddiſh brown, and in the end black; they are, when ripe, full of a pulpy matter, ſurrounding the ſeeds; but they are dried, when unripe, for our uſe.

The fruit thus gathered and dried in the ſun, is what we call *Jamaica pepper*, *piamenta*, or *allſpice*. It is an excellent ſpice; it ſtrengthens the ſtomach, and is good againſt the cholic. The beſt way to take it is in powder, mixed with a little ſugar; it will prevent vomiting, and ſickneſs after meals, and is one of the beſt known remedies for habitual cholics.

Guinea Pepper. *Capſicum.*

A common plant in our gardens, diſtinguiſhed by its large ſcarlet pods. It grows a foot and a half high. The ſtalk is angulated, thick, and green, tolerably erect, and branched; the leaves ſtand irregularly, and are longiſh, pretty broad, and of a deep green colour; the flowers are moderately large and white,

with a yellow head in the middle: They grow at the diviſions of the branches; the fruit follows, and is an inch and a half long, an inch thick, and biggeſt at the baſe, whence it grows ſmaller to the point: The colour is a fine red, and its ſurface is ſo ſmooth, that it looks like poliſhed coral: It is a ſkin containing a quantity of ſeeds.

The fruit is the part uſed. Held in the mouth, it cures the toothach, for its heat and acrimony are greater than in pellitory of Spain, and it fills the mouth with water. Applied externally, bruiſed, and mixed with honey and crumbled bread, it is good for a quinſy.

Periwinkle. *Vinca Pervinca.*

A very pretty creeping plant, wild in ſome places, but kept in gardens alſo, The ſtalks are numerous, and a foot or more in length, but they do not ſtand upright; they are round, green, and tough, and generally trail upon the ground; the leaves are oblong, broad, of a ſhining green colour, ſmooth on the ſurface, and placed two at each joint; the flowers are large and blue: They are bell-faſhioned, and ſtand on long foot-ſtalks; the fruit ſucceeding. Each is compoſed of two longiſh pods; each containing ſeveral ſeeds.

The whole plant is uſed freſh. It is to be boiled in water, and the decoction drank with a little red wine in it. It ſtops the overflowings of the menſes, and the bleeding of the piles.

Spelt, or St. Peter's Corn. *Zea.*

A plant of the corn-kind, reſembling barley ſown in ſome parts of Europe, but not much known in England. It grows a foot and a half high; the ſtalk is round, hollow, jointed, and green; the leaves are graſſy, but broad. At the tops of the ſtalk ſtands an

ear like that of barley, but ſmaller and thinner, tho' with long beards; the grain is not unlike barley in ſhape, or between that and wheat, only much ſmaller than either.

The ſeed or grain is the part uſed, it is ſuppoſed to be ſtrengthening and in ſome degree aſtringent, but we know very little of its qualities, nor are they conſiderable enough to encourage us to inquire after them.

PIMPERNEL. *Anagallis Flore rubro.*

A PRETTY little plant common in corn-fields and garden-borders. The ſtalks are ſquare, ſmooth, green, but not very upright; they are five or ſix inches long; the leaves ſtand two at each joint, and they are of an oblong figure, conſiderably broad in the middle, and pointed at the end; the flowers ſtand ſingly on long ſlender foot-ſtalks; they are ſmall, but of a moſt bright ſcarlet colour.

The whole plant is uſed; and the beſt method of giving it, is in an infuſion, made by powering boiling water upon it freſh gathered: This is an excellent drink in fevers; it promotes ſweat, and throws out the ſmall-pox, meaſles, or any other eruptions: The dried leaves may be given in powder or a tea made of the whole dried plant, but nothing is ſo well as the infuſion of it freſh; thoſe who have not ſeen it tried this way do not know how valuable a medicine it is.

There is another kind of pimpernel, perfectly like this, but that the flowers are blue; this is called the *female*, and the other the *male pimpernel*, but the red flowered kind has moſt virtue.

THE PINE TREE. *Pinus.*

A LARGE and beautiful tree, native of Italy, but kept in our gardens. We have a wild kind of pine in the

North, called *Scotch fir*, but it is not the ſame tree; the trunk of the true pine, is covered with a rough brown bark, the branches with a ſmoother, and more reddiſh; the leaves are long and ſlender, and they grow always two from the ſame baſe, or out of the ſame ſheath; they are of a bluiſh green colour, and are a little hollowed on the inſide; the flowers are ſmall and inconſiderable, they ſtand in a kind of tufts on the branches; the fruit are cones of a brown colour, large, long, and blunt at the top. Theſe contain between the ſcales certain white kernels of a ſweet taſte, and covered with a thin ſhell.

Theſe kernels are the part uſed, and they are excellent in conſumptions, and after long illneſs, given by way of reſtorative. An emulſion may be made by beating them up with barley-water, and this will be of the ſame ſervice with common emulſions for heat of urine.

The Wild Pine-Tree. *Pinus Sylveſtris.*

A tree native of many parts of Germany, very much reſembling what is called the *manured pine*, or ſimply the pine before deſcribed. It grows to be a large and tall tree; the trunk is covered with a rough brown bark, that of the branches is paler and ſmoother; the leaves are very narrow and ſhort, they grow two out of a caſe or huſk, as in the other, and are of a bluiſh green colour; they differ principally in being ſhorter; the flowers are yellowiſh, and, like the others, very ſmall and inconſiderable; the cones are ſmall, brown, and hard, and ſharp at the tops; they contain kernels in their ſhells, among the ſcales as the other; but they are ſmaller.

The kernels have the ſame virtues as thoſe of the other pines, but being little, they are not regarded. The reſin which flows from this tree, either naturally, or when it is cut for that purpoſe, is what we call

common turpentine. It is a thick ſubſtance like honey, of a browniſh colour, and very ſtrong and diſagreeable ſmell.

When this turpentine has been diſtilled, to make oil of turpentine, the reſin which remains, is what we call *common reſin*, if they put out the fire in time, it is yellow reſin; if they continue it longer, it is black reſin. They often boil the turpentine in water, without diſtilling it for the common reſin; and when they take it out half boiled for this purpoſe, it is what we call *Burgundy pitch.* And the whitiſh reſin, which is called *thus* or *frankincenſe*, and is a thing quite different from olibanum, or the fine incenſe, is the natural reſin flowing from the branches of this tree, and hardening into drops upon them. It does not differ much from the common turpentine in its nature, but is leſs offenſive in ſmell.

The ſeveral kinds of pitch, tar, and reſin are principally uſed in plaiſters and ointments. The turpentine produced from this tree alſo, and called *common turpentine*, is principally uſed in the ſame manner, the finer turpentines being given inwardly. Theſe are procured from the turpentine-tree, the larch-tree, and the ſilver fire. The yellow reſin and the bark are ſometimes taken inwardly in pills, and they are very good againſt the whites, and the runnings after gonorrhœas; but for this purpoſe it is better to boil ſome better ſort of turpentine, to the conſiſtence, and give it.

Piony. *Pæonia.*

A flower common in our gardens, but of great uſe as well as ornament. The common double piony, is not the kind uſed in medicine: This is called the *female piony*, the ſingle flowered one, called the *male piony*, is the right kind. This grows two or three feet high. The ſtalk is round, ſtriated, and branched; the leaves are of a deep green, and on each com-

poſed of ſeveral others; the flowers are very large, and of a deep purple, with a green head in the middle. When they are decayed, this head ſwells out into two or more ſeed-veſſels, which are whitiſh and hairy on the outſide, and red within, and full of black ſeeds; the root is compoſed of a number of longiſh or roundiſh lumps connected by fibres to the main ſource of the ſtalk; theſe are brown on the outſide, and whitiſh within.

The roots are uſed; an infuſion of them promotes the menſes. The powder of them, dried, is good againſt hyſteric and nervous complaints. It is particularly recommended againſt the falling-ſickneſs.

THE PISTACHIA-TREE. *Piſtachia.*

A TREE common in the Eaſt; the trunk is covered with a brown rough bark; the branches grow irregularly, and their bark is reddiſh; the leaves are each compoſed of ſeveral pairs of ſmall ones; theſe are oblong, broad, and of a beautiful green colour, and firm texture. The flowers grow in tufts; they are white and ſmall; the fruit which ſucceeds is what we call the *Piſtachia nut;* it is as big as a filbert, but long and ſharp-pointed, and is it covered with a tough wrinkled bark. The ſhell within this is woody and tough, but it eaſily enough divides into two parts, and the kernel within is of a greeniſh colour, but covered with a red ſkin. It is of a ſweet taſte.

The fruit is eaten, but it may be conſidered as a medicine, it opens obſtructions of the liver, and it works by urine. It is an excellent reſtorative to be given to people waſted by conſumptions, or other long and tedious illneſſes.

PITCH TREE. *Picea.*

A TREE of the fir-kind, and commonly called the *red fir.* It is a tall tree of regular growth; the bark

of the trunk is of a reddiſh brown, and it is paler on the branches; the leaves are very numerous, ſhort, narrow, and of a ſtrong green; they ſtand very thick, and are ſharp, or almoſt prickly at the extremities; the flowers are yellowiſh, and inconſiderable; and the fruit is a long and large cone, which hangs down, whereas that of the true fir-tree, or the yew-leaved fir ſtands upright.

The tops of the branches and young ſhoots are uſed: They abound with a reſin of the turpentine-kind; they are beſt given in decoction, or brewed with beer; they are good againſt the rheumatiſm and ſcurvy; they work by urine, and heal ulcers of the urinary parts.

Pitch and tar are produced from the wood of this tree; the tar ſweats out of the wood in burning, and the pitch is only tar boiled to that conſiſtence. To obtain the tar, they pile up great heaps of the wood, and ſet fire to them at top, and the tar ſweats out of the ends of the lower, and is catched as it runs from them.

Burgundy pitch is made of the reſin of the wild pine-tree, which is common turpentine boiled in water to a certain conſiſtence, if they boil it longer, it would be reſin, for the common reſin is only this turpentine boiled to a hardneſs.

The Ammoniacum Plant. *Ammoniacum.*

A TALL plant, native of the Eaſt, and very imperfectly deſcribed to us. What we hear of it is, that it grows on the ſides of hills, and is five or ſix feet high; the ſtalk is hollow and ſtriated, and painted with various colours like that of our hemlock; the flowers, we are told, are ſmall and white, and ſtand in great round cluſters at the tops of the ſtalks; the leaves are very large and compoſed of a multitude of ſmall diviſions: One circumſtance we can add from our own knowledge to this deſcription, and it gives

great proof of the authenticity of the reſt; this is, that the ſeeds are broad, flat, ſtriated, and have a folianous rim, as thoſe of dill. We could know by theſe which are found very frequently among the gum, that it was a plant of this kind which produced it: So that there is great probability that the reſt of the deſcription, which has been given us by thoſe who did not know we had this confirmation at home, is true. Theſe ſeeds often appear very fair and ſound. I have cauſed a great number of them to be ſown, but they have never grown. Though one of the ſagapenum ſeeds grew up a little when ſown among them: It would be worth while to repeat the experiment, for ſome times it might ſucceed.

We uſe a gum, or rather a gum reſin, for it is of a mixed nature between both, which is procured from this plant, but from what part of it, or in what manner we are not informed; it is whitiſh, of an acrid taſte, with ſome bitterneſs, and is an excellent medicine. It is ſuperior to all other drugs in an aſthma, and is good to promote the menſes, and to open obſtructions of all kinds. The beſt way of giving it is diſſolved in hyſſop water. It makes a milky ſolution. It is uſed externally alſo in plaiſters for hard ſwellings, and pains in the joints.

Broad-leaved Plaintain. *Plantago major.*

A common plant by our way-ſides, with broad ſhort leaves, and long ſlender ſpikes of brown ſeeds. The leaves riſe all from the root, for there are none upon the ſtalk; they are of a ſomewhat oval figure, and irregularly indented at the edges, ſometimes ſcarce at all; they have ſeveral large ribs, but theſe do not grow ſide-ways from the middle one, but all run length-ways, like that from the baſe of the leaf toward the point; the ſtalks grow a foot high, their lower half is naked, and their upper part thick ſet, firſt with ſmall and inconſiderable flowers, of a

greeniſh white colour, and afterwards with ſeeds which are brown and ſmall.

This is one of thoſe common plants, which have ſo much virtue, that Nature ſeems to have made them common for univerſal benefit. The whole plant is to be uſed, and it is beſt freſh. A decoction of it in water, is excellent againſt overflowings of the menſes, violent purgings, with bloody ſtools and vomiting of blood, the bleeding of the piles and all other ſuch diſorders. The ſeeds, beaten to a powder, are good againſt the whites.

There is a broad-leaved plantain with ſhort flowery ſpikes, and hairy leaves, this has full as much virtue as the kind already deſcribed: The narrow-leaved plantain has leſs, but of the ſame kind.

PLOWMAM'S SPIKENARD. *Baccharis Monſpelienſium.*

A TALL robuſt wild plant, with broad rough leaves, and numerous ſmall yellowiſh flowers, frequent by road-ſides, and in dry paſtures. The plant grows three feet high. The ſtalks are round, thick, upright, and a little hairy; the leaves are large, broad from the root, and narrower on the ſtalk, they are blunt at the points, and a little indented at the edges; the flowers grow on the tops of the branches, ſpreading out into a large head from a ſingle ſtem; they are little and yellow: The ſeeds have down fixed to them; the root is brown and woody, the whole plant has a fragrant and aromatic ſmell.

The leaves and tops given in decoction, are good againſt inward bleedings; the root dried and powdered, is a remedy for purgings, and is good againſt the whites.

POLEYMOUNTAIN. *Polium Montanum.*

A PRETTY plant, native of the warmer parts of Europe, and kept in our gardens. It is ten inches high.

The ſtalks are ſquare and whitiſh; the leaves are oblong and narrow, of a white colour, and woolly ſurface; they ſtand two at a joint, and they are indented at the edges; the flowers are ſmall and white; they grow in a kind of woolly tufts at the tops of the branches.

The whole plant is uſed; it is beſt dried; given in infuſion; it promotes the menſes, and removes obſtructions of the liver; hence it is recommended greatly in the jaundice; it operates by urine.

CANDY POLEYMOUNTAIN. *Polium Creticum.*

A LITTLE plant of a woolly appearance, native of the Grecian iſlands, and kept in ſome gardens. It grows about ſix inches high; the ſtalks are ſquare, white, weak, and ſeldom upright; the leaves ſtand two at each joint; they are narrow, oblong, and not at all indented at the edges; they are of a white woolly aſpect, and of a pleaſant ſmell; the flowers are ſmall and white, and they grow in tufts at the tops of the ſtalks; their cups are very white.

The whole plant is to be uſed dried; it operates very powerfully by urine, and is good againſt all hyſteric complaints, but it is not to be given to women with child, for it has ſo much efficacy in promoting the menſes, that it may occaſion abortion.

POLYPODY. *Polypodium.*

A SMALL plant of the fern-kind. It is a foot high, and conſiſts only of a ſingle leaf. Several of theſe commonly riſe from the ſame root, but each is a ſeparate and entire plant; the ſtalk is naked for five inches, and from thence to the top ſtand on each ſide a row of ſmall, oblong, and narrow ſegments, reſembling ſo many ſmall leaves, with an odd one at the end; the whole plant is of a bright green colour, but the backs of theſe diviſions of the leaf, are at a

certain ſeaſon, toward autumn, ornamented with a great number of round brown ſpots, theſe are the ſeeds; thoſe of all ferns are carried in the ſame manner. The root is long, ſlender, and creeps upon the ſurface of old ſtumps of trees among the moſs. The root is uſed, and it is beſt freſh, it is a ſafe and gentle purge, the beſt way of giving it is in decoction, in which form it always operates alſo by urine. It is good in the jaundice and dropſies, and is an excellent ingredient in diet-drinks againſt the ſcurvy, but beſides theſe conſiderations, it is a ſafe and good purge, on all common occaſions.

THE POMEGRANATE TREE. *Granatus.*

A COMMON wild tree in Spain and Italy, kept with us in gardens. It grows to the bigneſs of our apple-trees; the branches ſpread irregularly; they have a reddiſh brown bark, and have here and there a few thorns; the leaves are numerous; on the extremities of the branches they are ſmall, oblong, narrow, and of a fine green; the flowers are large, and of a beautiful deep red; the fruit is as big as a large apple, and has a brown woody covering; it contains within a great quantity of ſeeds, with a ſweet and tart juice about them.

The rind of the fruit is uſed; it is to be dried and given in decoction: it is a powerful aſtringent; it ſtops purgings and bleedings of all kinds, and is good againſt the whites.

THE WILD POMEGRANATE-TREE. *Balauſtia.*

A SMALLER tree than the former, but like it in its manner of growth, except that the branches are more crooked and irregular, and are more thorny. The leaves are oblong, ſmall, and of a bright green, and [illegible] ſet in cluſters towards the end of the branches;

the flowers are beautiful, they are double like a roſe, and of a fine purple.

The flowers are the part of the wild pomegranate uſed in medicine, our druggiſts keep them and call them *balaüſtines*; they are given in powder or decoction to ſtop purgings, bloody ſtools, and overflowings of the menſes. A ſtrong infuſion of them cures ulcers in the mouth and throat, and is a good thing to waſh the mouth for faſtening the teeth.

The Pompkin. *Pepo.*

A very large and ſtraggling plant, cultivated by our poor people. The ſtalks are very long and thick, but they lie upon the ground; they are angulated and rough; the leaves are extremely large, and of a roundiſh figure, but cornered and angulated, and they are of a deep green colour, and rough to the touch; the flowers are very large and yellow, of a bell-like ſhape, but angulated at the mouth, and the fruit is of the melon-kind, only bigger and round; of a deep green when unripe, but yellow at laſt; in this, under the fleſhy part, are contained many large flat ſeeds.

The poor people mix the fleſhy part of the fruit with apples, and bake them in pies. The ſeeds are excellent in medicine; they are cooling and diuretic; the beſt way of taking them is in emulſions, made with barley-water; they make an emulſion as milky as almonds, and are preferable to them, and all the cold ſeeds in ſtranguries and heat of urine.

The Black Poplar. *Populus nigra.*

A tall tree, frequent about waters, and of a very beautiful aſpect. The trunk is covered with a ſmooth pale bark; the branches are numerous, and grow with a ſort of regularity; the leaves are ſhort and broad, roundiſh at the baſe, but ending in a point;

MEDICAL LIBRARY

they are of a gloſſy ſhining green, and ſtand on long foot-ſtalks; the flowers and ſeeds are conſiderable; they appear in ſpring, and are little regarded.

The young leaves of the black poplar are excellent mixed in poultices, to be applied to hard painful ſwellings.

THE WHITE POPPY. *Papaver album.*

A TALL and beautiful plant, kept in our gardens, a native of the warmer climates. It grows a yard and half high. The ſtalk is round, ſmooth, upright, and of a bluiſh green; the leaves are very long, conſiderably broad, and deeply and irregularly cut in at the edges; they are alſo of a bluiſh green colour, and ſtand irregularly on the ſtalk; the flowers are very large and white, one ſtands at the top of each diviſion of the ſtalk, when they are fallen, the ſeed-veſſel, or poppy-head, grows to the bigneſs of a large apple, and contains within it a very great quantity of ſmall whitiſh ſeeds, with ſeveral ſkinny diviſions.

When any part of the plant is broken, there flows out a thick milky juice, of a ſtrong, bitter, and hot taſte, very like that of opium, and full as diſagreeable.

The heads are uſed with us, and ſometimes the ſeeds. Of the heads boiled in water, is made the ſyrup of diacodium. The heads are to be dried for this purpoſe, and the decoction is to be made as ſtrong as poſſible, and then boiled up with ſugar; the ſeeds are beaten up into emulſions with barley-water, and they are good againſt ſtranguries, and heat of urine; they have nothing of the ſleepy virtue of the ſyrups, nor of the other parts or preparations of the poppy. Syrup of diacodiam, puts people to ſleep, but gently, and is ſafer than opium or laudanum.

Opium is nothing more than the milky juice of this plant concreted, it is obtained from the heads: They cut them while upon the plant in the warmer coun-

tries, and the juice which flows out of the wound, hardens and becomes opium; they make an inferior kind alſo, by bruiſing and ſqueezing the heads. Laudanum is a tincture of this opium made in wine. Either one or the other is given to compoſe people to ſleep, and to abate the ſenſe of pain, they are alſo cordial and promote ſweat; but they are to be given with great care and caution, for they are very powerful, and therefore they may be very dangerous medicines. It is good to ſtop violent purgings and vomiting, but this muſt be effected by ſmall doſes carefully given. The preſent practice depends upon opium and bleeding, for the cure of the bite of a mad dog: But it is not eaſy to ſay, that any perſon ever was cured, who became thoroughly diſtempered from that bite. One of the ſtrongeſt inſtances we have known, was in a perſon at St. George's Hoſpital, under the cure of Dr. Hoadley, there was an appearance of the ſymptoms, and the cure was effected by this method.

Black Poppy. *Papaver nigrum.*

A tall and fine plant, but not ſo elegant as the former. It is a yard high. The ſtalk is round, upright, firm, and ſmooth, and toward the top divides into ſome branches. The leaves are long and broad, of a bluiſh green colour, and deeply and irregularly cut in at the edges. The flowers are large and ſingle; they are of a dead purple colour, with a black bottom. The heads or ſeed-veſſels are round, and of the bigneſs of a walnut. The ſeed is black.

A ſyrup of the heads of this poppy, is a ſtronger ſoporific than the common diacodium, but it is not uſed. The gentleneſs of that medicine is its merit: When ſomething more powerful is uſed, it is better to have recourſe to opium or laudanum.

Red Poppy. *Papaver erraticum.*

A common wild plant in our corn-fields, diſtinguiſhed by its great ſcarlet flowers. It is a foot high. The ſtalk is round, ſlender, hairy, of a pale green, and branched; the leaves are long and narrow, of a duſky green, hairy, and very deeply, but very irregularly indented; the flowers are very large, and of an extremely bright and fine ſcarlet colour, a little blackiſh toward the bottom; the head is ſmall, not larger than a horſe-bean, and the ſeeds are ſmall, and of a dark colour; the whole plant is full of a bitter yellowiſh juice, which runs out when it is any where broken, and has ſomething of the ſmell of opium.

The flowers are uſed. A ſyrup is made from them by pouring as much boiling water on them as will juſt wet them, and after a night's ſtanding, ſtraining it off, and adding twice its weight of ſugar: This is the famous ſyrup of red poppies. It gently promotes ſleep. It is a much weaker medicine than the diacodium. It is greatly recommended in pleuriſies and fevers; but this upon no good foundation. It is very wrong to depend upon ſuch medicines: It prevents having recourſe to better.

The Primrose. *Primula veris.*

A very pretty and very common ſpring-plant. The leaves are long, conſiderably broad, of a pale green, and wrinkled on the ſurface: They grow immediately from the root in conſiderable numbers. The ſtalks which ſupport the flowers are ſingle, ſlender, four or five inches high, a little hairy, and have no leaves on them: One flower ſtands at the top of each, and is large, white, and beautiful, with a yellow ſpot in the middle. The root is fibrous and whitiſh.

The root is uſed. The juice of it ſnuffed up the

noſe occaſions ſneezing, and is a good remedy againſt the headach. The dried root, powdered, has the ſame effect, but not ſo powerfully.

PRIVET. *Liguſtrum.*

A LITTLE wild ſhrub in our hedges. It grows four feet high; the ſtalks are ſlender, tough, and covered with a ſmooth brown bark; the leaves are oblong and narrow; they are ſmall, of a duſky green colour, broadeſt in the middle, and placed in pairs oppoſite to one another, and they are of a ſomewhat firm ſubſtance, and have no indenting at the edges; the flowers are white and little, but they ſtand in tufts at the ends of the branches, and by that make a good appearance; the fruit is a black berry; one ſucceeds to every flower in the cluſter.

The tops are uſed, and they are beſt when the flowers are juſt beginning to bud. A ſtrong infuſion of them in water, with the addition of a little honey and red wine, is excellent to waſh the mouth and throat when there are little ſores in them, and when the gums are apt to bleed.

PURSLAIN. *Portulaca.*

A COMMON plant in our gardens, and of a very ſingular aſpect: We have few ſo ſucculent. It grows a foot long, but trails on the ground; the ſtalks are round, thick, and fleſhy, of a reddiſh colour, and very brittle; the leaves are ſhort and broad; they are of a good green, thick, fleſhy, and broad, and blunt at the end; the flowers are little and yellow; they ſtand among the leaves toward the tops of the ſtalks; the root is ſmall, fibrous, and whitiſh.

Purſlain is a pleaſant herb in ſalads, and ſo wholeſome, that it is pity more of it is not eaten: It is excellent againſt the ſcurvy. The juice freſh

preſſed out with a little white-wine works by urine, and is excellent againſt ſtranguries and violent heats, and alſo againſt the ſcurvy.

Q.

The Quince-Tree. *Cydonia.*

A Common tree in our gardens, of irregular growth; the trunk is thick, and has a brown bark; the branches are numerous, ſtraggling, and ſpreading; the leaves are roundiſh, of a duſky green on the upper-ſide, and whitiſh underneath; the flowers or bloſſoms are large and beautiful, of a pale fleſh colour; the fruit is of the ſhape of a pear, and has a large crown: It is yellow when ripe, and of a pleaſant ſmell; its taſte is auſtere, but agreeable; the ſeeds are ſoft and mucilaginous.

The fruit and ſeeds are uſed. The juice of the ripe quince, made into a ſyrup with ſugar, is excellent to ſtop vomiting, and to ſtrengthen the ſtomach. The ſeed boiled in water gives it a ſoftneſs, and mucilaginous quality, and it is an excellent medicine for ſore mouths, and may be uſed to ſoften and moiſten the mouth and throat in fevers.

R.

The Radish. *Raphanus.*

A common plant in our gardens, the root of which is eaten abundantly in ſpring. In this ſtate we ſee a long and ſlender root, of a purple or ſcarlet colour, (for there are theſe varieties) mingled with white, from which grow a quantity of large rough leaves, of a deep green colour, and irregularly divided: Amidſt theſe, in ſummer, riſes the ſtalk, which is a yard high, round, and very much branched. The leaves on it are much ſmaller than thoſe from the root; the flowers are very numerous, ſmall, and white, with ſome ſpots of red; the pods are thick, long, and ſpungy.

The juice of the radiſh-roots freſh gathered, with a little white-wine, is an excellent remedy againſt the gravel. Scarce any thing operates more ſpeedily by urine, or brings away little ſtones more ſucceſsfully.

Horse-Radish. *Raphanus Ruſticanus.*

A plant as well known in our gardens as the other, and wild alſo in many places; the root is very long, and of an exceedingly acrid taſte, ſo that it cannot be eaten as the other; the leaves are two feet long, and half a foot broad, of a deep green colour, blunt at the point, and a little indented at the edges: Sometimes there are leaves deeply cut, and divided,

but that is an accidental variety; the ſtalks are a yard high; the leaves on them are very ſmall and narrow, and at the tops ſtand little white flowers in long ſpikes; theſe are followed by little ſeed-veſſels. The plant ſeldom flowers, and when it does, the ſeeds ſcarce ever ripen. It is propagated ſufficiently by the root, and wherever this is the caſe, nature is leſs careful about ſeeds.

The juice of horſe-radiſh-root operates very powerfully by urine, and is good againſt the jaundice and dropſy. The root whole, or cut to pieces, is put into diet-drink to ſweeten the blood and the eating frequently, and in quantities, at table, is good againſt the rheumatiſm.

Ragwort. *Jacobæa.*

A wild plant, very common in our paſtures, and diſtinguiſhed by its ragged leaves and cluſters of yellow flowers. It is two feet high. The ſtalk is robuſt, round, ſtriated, and often purpliſh; the leaves are divided in an odd manner into ſeveral parts, ſo that they look torn or ragged; their colour is a dark duſky green, and they grow to the ſtalk without any foot-ſtalk, and are broad and rounded at the end. The flowers are moderately large and yellow, and the tops of the branches are ſo covered witn them, that they often ſpread together to the breadth of a plate. The whole plant has a diſagreeable ſmell. The root is fibrous, and the ſeeds are downy.

The freſh leaves are uſed; but it is beſt to take thoſe that riſe immediately from the root, for they are larger and more juicy than thoſe on the ſtalk: They are to be mixed in poultices, and applied outwardly as a remedy againſt pains in the joints; they have a ſurpriſing effect. It is ſaid, that two or three times applied, they will cure the ſciatica, or hip-gout, when ever ſo violent.

The Raspberry-Bush.

A little ſhrub, common in our gardens, but wild alſo in ſome parts of the kingdom; the ſtalks are round, weak, tender, of a pale brown, and prickly; the leaves are each compoſed of five others; they are large, of a pale green, indented about the edges, and hairy; the flowers are little, of a whitiſh colour, with a great quantity of threads in the middle; the fruit is the common raſpberry, compoſed like the blackberry of ſeveral grains; it is ſoft to the touch, and of a delicate taſte; the colour varies, for white ones are common.

The juice of ripe raſpberries, boiled up with ſugar, makes an excellent ſyrup. It is pleaſant, and agreeable to the ſtomach, good againſt ſickneſſes and retchings.

The Rattlesnake-Root Plant. *Senega.*

A small plant, native of America, with weak ſtalks, little leaves, and white flowers; it grows a foot high; the ſtalks are numerous, weak, and round, few of them ſtand quite upright, ſome generally lie upon the ground; the leaves ſtand irregularly; they are oblong and ſomewhat broad, and of a pale green; the flowers are little and white; they ſtand in a kind of looſe ſpikes at the tops of the ſtalks, and perfectly reſemble thoſe of the common plant we call *milkwort*, of which it is indeed a kind: The whole plant has very much the aſpect of the taller kind of our Engliſh milkwort; the root is of a ſingular form; it is long, irregular, ſlender, and divided into many parts, and theſe have, on each ſide, a kind of membranous margin hanging from them, which makes it diſtinct in its appearance from all the other roots uſed in the ſhops.

We owe the knowledge of this medicine originally to the Indians; they give it as a remedy againſt the poiſon of the rattleſnake, but it has been extolled, as poſſeſſing great virtues. Dr. Tennant brought it into England, and we received it as a powerful remedy againſt pleuriſies, quinzies, and all other diſeaſes where the blood was ſizy; it was ſaid to diſſolve this dangerous texture better than all other known medicines, but experience does not ſeem to have warranted altogether theſe effects, for it is at preſent neglected, after a great many and very fair trials.

When this remedy was diſcovered to be the root of a kind of polygala, which diſcovery was owing to the gentleman who brought it over, and with it ſome of the plant, for the inſpection of the curious. The roots of the Engliſh polygala were tried; thoſe of the common blue or white flowered milkwort, for that variety is purely accidental, and they were found to have the ſame effects; they were given by ſome in pleuriſies with great ſucceſs. It was ſaid at that time they had leſs virtues than the ſenega-root, tho' of the ſame kind; but it muſt be remembered, the virtues of the ſenega-root were then ſuppoſed to be much greater than they really were. The novelty adding to the praiſe.

The Common Reed. *Arundo.*

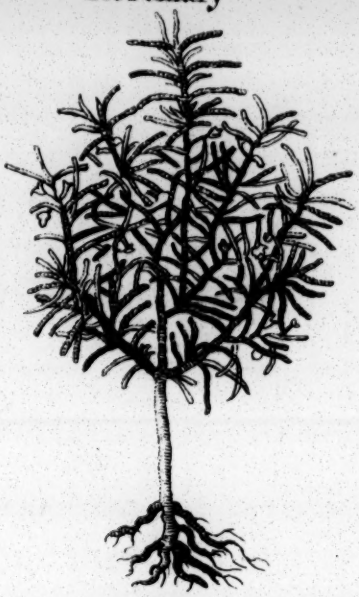
A tall water-plant, ſufficiently known. The ſtalks are round, hard, jointed, and ſix or eight feet high; the leaves are long and broad, but otherwiſe like thoſe of graſs, of a pale green colour, and highly ribbed; the flowers are brown and chaffy, and ſtand in prodigious numbers at the tops of the ſtalks, in a kind of panicle; the roots are knotty and jointed, and ſpread vaſtly.

The juice of the freſh roots of reeds promotes the menſes powerfully, but not violently. It is an ex-

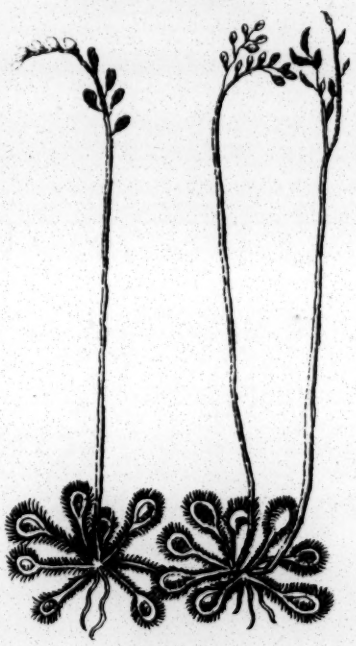
Rest Harrow



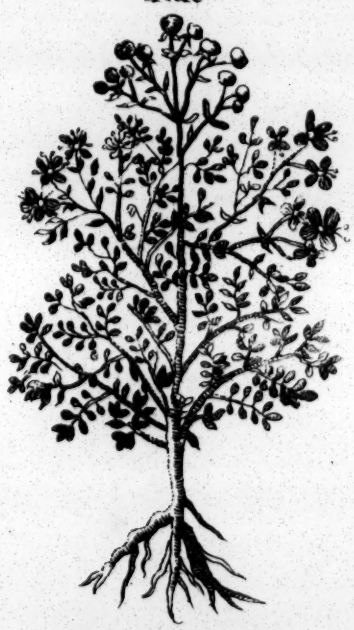
Rosemary



Rosa Solis



Rue



Sanicle



Male Speedwell



cellent medicine: It works by urine alſo; and is good againſt ſtranguries and the gravel.

Prickly-Restharrow. *Anonis Spinoſa.*

A little, tough, and almoſt ſhrubby plant, common in our dry fields, and by road-ſides. It is a foot high. The ſtalks are round, reddiſh, tough, and almoſt woody; the leaves are numerous; they ſtand three on every foot-ſtalk, and grow pretty cloſe to the ſtalk; there are ſeveral ſhort and ſharp prickles about the ſtalks, principally at the inſertions of the leaves. The leaves are of a duſky green, and ſerrated about the edges; the flowers are ſmall and purple; they ſtand among the leaves towards the tops of the ſtalks, and are in ſhape like pea-bloſſoms, but flatted; each is followed by a ſmall pod; the root is white, very long, tough, and woody.

The root is to be taken up freſh for uſe, and the bark ſeparated for that purpoſe. It is to be boiled in water, and the decoction given in large quantities. It is good againſt the gravel, and in all obſtructions by urine; and it is alſo good in the dropſy and jaundice.

Rhapontic. *Rhaponticum, ſive Rha.*

A tall robuſt plant, native of Scythia, but kept in many of our gardens. It grows four feet high. The ſtalk is round, ſtriated, an inch thick, ſometimes hollow, and very upright; the leaves are large and broad; thoſe from the root are about a foot and a half long, and a foot broad, of a deep green colour, with large ribs, and blunt at the ends; the flowers are ſmall and white; they ſtand in cluſters at the tops of the ſtalks, and are ſucceeded by triangular ſeeds.

The root is the part uſed, and that is what the Antients uſed, under the name of *rha*. It is of the

nature of rhubarb, but different in this, that it is leſs purgative, and more aſtringent; for this reaſon there are many purpoſes which it would anſwer much better. We have it at the druggiſts, but there is no depending upon what they ſell, for they ſeldom keep it genuine.

Rice. *Oryza.*

A very common plant in the Eaſt, ſown in the fields for the ſake of the ſeed or grain. It grows four feet high; the ſtalk is round, hollow, and jointed; the leaves are long and graſſy, and of a pale green colour, but they are broader than thoſe of any of our kinds of corn; the flowers are inconſiderable; the ſeeds or grains are contained in buſhes of a brown colour, each having a long beard to it, uſually curled at the bottom, and divided at the top into two parts.

We eat rice as a food rather than medicine; but it is excellent for thoſe who have habitual purgings or looſeneſſes; it is to be eaten any way for this purpoſe, only it muſt be continued, and it will do more than all the medicines in the world. The rice-milk is excellent for this purpoſe.

Garden-Rocket. *Eruca Sativa.*

A common plant in our gardens, two feet high, and very erect; the ſtalk is round, and of a deep green; the leaves are oblong, conſiderably broad, of a deep green colour, and divided at the edges; the flowers are moderately large, and of a whitiſh colour, veined with purple, and they ſtand in a long ſpike at the top of the ſtalk. The pods are long and ſlender.

Some people are fond of rocket as a ſalad-herb, but it is not very pleaſant. It works by urine, and is good againſt the ſcurvy. A ſtrong infuſion of the

leaves made into a ſyrup is good againſt coughs; it cauſes expectoration, and eaſes the lungs.

The Dog-Rose, or Wild Rose.

Cynoſbatus, ſive Roſa Sylveſtris.

A common buſh in our hedges. The ſtalks or ſtems are round, woody, and very prickly. The leaves are compoſed each of ſeveral ſmaller; theſe ſtand in pairs on a rib, with an odd one at the end; and they are ſmall, oblong, of a bright gloſſy green colour, and regularly indented at the edges; the flowers are ſingle, large, and very beautiful; there is ſomething ſimple and elegant in their aſpect that pleaſes many, more than all the double roſes raiſed by culture; they are white, but with a bluſh of red, and very beautiful; the fruit that follows theſe is the common hip, red, oblong, and containing a great quantity of hairy ſeeds.

The fruit is the only part uſed; the pulp is ſeparated from the ſkins and ſeeds, and beat up into a conſerve with ſugar. This is a pleaſant medicine, and is of ſome efficacy againſt coughs.

Tho' this is the only part that is uſed, it is not the only that deſerves to be; the flowers gathered in the bud, and dried, are an excellent aſtringent, made more powerful than the red roſes that are commonly dried for this purpoſe. A tea, made ſtrong of theſe dried buds, and ſome of them given with it twice a day in powder, is an excellent medicine for overflowings of the menſes, it ſeldom fails to effect a cure. The ſeeds ſeparated from the fruit, dried and powdered, work by urine, and are good againſt the gravel, but they do not work very powerfully.

Upon the branches of the ſhrub there grow a kind of ſpungy fibrous tufts, of a green or reddiſh colour; they are called *bedeguar*. They are cauſed by the wounds made by inſects in the ſtalks, as the galls are produced upon the oak. They are aſtringent,

and may be given in powder againſt fluxes. They are ſaid to work by urine, but experience does not warrant this.

The Damask Rose. *Roſa Damaſcena.*

A common ſhrub in our gardens, very much reſembling that in our hedges laſt mentioned. It grows five or ſix feet high, but the ſtalks are not very ſtrong, or able to ſupport themſelves; they are round, and beſet with ſharp prickles; the leaves are each compoſed of two or three pairs of ſmaller ones, with an odd one at the end; they are whitiſh, hairy, and broad, and are indented at the edges; the flowers are large and very beautiful, of a pale red colour, full of leaves, and of an extremely ſweet ſmell; the fruit is like the common hip.

The flowers are uſed. The beſt way of giving them is in a ſyrup made thus. Pour boiling water upon a quantity of freſh-gathered damaſk roſes, juſt enough to cover them, let them ſtand four and twenty hours, then preſs off the liquor. and add to it twice the quantity of ſugar; melt this, and the ſyrup is completed. It is an excellent purge for children, and there is not a better medicine for grown people who are ſubject to be coſtive. A little of it taken every night will keep the body open continually: Medicines that purge ſtrongly bind afterwards. Roſe-water is diſtilled from this kind.

The White Rose. *Roſa alba.*

A common ſhrub alſo in our gardens. It grows ten or twelve feet high, but is not very able to ſupport itſelf upright. The ſtalks are round, prickly, and very much branched; the leaves are of a duſky green, each compoſed of ſeveral pairs of ſmaller, with an odd one at the end; the flowers are ſomewhat ſmaller than thoſe of the damaſk roſe, but of

the ſame form; and their colour is white, and they have leſs fragrance than the damaſk.

The flowers are uſed. They are to be gathered in the bud, and uſed freſh or dry. A ſtrong infuſion of them is good againſt overflowings of the menſes, and the bleeding of the piles.

The Red Rose. *Roſa rubra.*

Another ſhrub common in our gardens, and the leaſt and loweſt of the three kinds of roſes. The ſtalks are round, woody, weak, and prickly, but they have fewer prickles than thoſe of the damaſk-roſe; the leaves are large, they are compoſed each of three or four pair of ſmaller, which are oval, of a duſky green, and ſerrated round the edges; the flowers are of the ſhape and ſize of thoſe of the damaſk-roſe, but they are not ſo double, and they have a great quantity of yellow threads in the middle. They are of an exceeding fine deep red colour, and they have very little ſmell. The fruit is like the common hip.

The flowers are uſed. They are to be gathered when in bud, and cut from the huſks without the white bottoms, and dried. The conſerve of red roſes is made of theſe buds prepared as for the drying; they are beaten up with three times their weight of ſugar. When dried, they have more virtue; they are given in infuſion, and ſometimes in powder, againſt overflowings of the menſes, and all other bleedings. Half an ounce of theſe dried buds are to be put into an earthen pan, and a pint of boiling water poured upon them after they have ſtood a few minutes, fifteen drops of oil of vitriol are to be dropped in upon them, and three drams of the fineſt ſugar in powder is to be added at the ſame time, then the whole is to be well ſtirred

about and covered up, that it may cool leiſurely: When cold, it is to be poured clear off. It is called *tincture of roſes*. It is clear, and of a fine red colour. It ſtrengthens the ſtomach and prevents vomitings, and is a powerful as well as a pleaſant remedy againſt all fluxes.

The Rose-Wood Tree. *Rhodium.*

There are two kinds of wood known under the name of *roſe-wood*, the one from the Eaſt, which, when freſh brought over, has a very fragrant ſmell, exceedingly like that of the damaſk-roſe, and from the wood is diſtilled the oil, which is ſold under the name of *eſſence of damaſk-roſe*; we have no account of the tree which affords this. The other roſe-wood is the produce of Jamaica, and has very much of the fragrant ſmell of the eaſtern kind, but it is not the ſame; the tree which produces this is fully deſcribed by that great naturaliſt Sir Hans Sloane, in his Hiſtory of the Iſland of Jamaica. The tree grows twenty feet, or more, in height, and its trunk is very thick in proportion; the leaves are each compoſed of three or four pairs of ſmaller, theſe ſtand at a diſtance from one another on the common ſtalk; the flowers are little and white, and they grow in cluſters, ſo that at a diſtance they look like the bunches of elder flowers. The fruit is a round berry often, each of the bigneſs of a tare. The wood of this tree is lighter, paler coloured, and of a looſer grain than the Eaſtern roſe-wood.

The wood is ſaid to be good in nervous diſorders; but we ſeldom make any uſe of it.

Rosemary. *Roſmarinus.*

A pretty ſhrub, wild in Spain and France, and kept in our gardens. It is five or ſix feet high, but weak, and not well able to ſupport itſelf. The

trunk is covered with a rough bark; the leaves ſtand very thick on the branches, which are brittle and ſlender; they are narrow, an inch long, and thick, and they are of a deep green on the upper-ſide, and whitiſh underneath; the flowers ſtand at the tops of the branches among the leaves; they are large and very beautiful, of a greyiſh colour, with a ſomewhat reddiſh tinge, and of a very fragrant ſmell. Roſemary, when in flower, makes a very beautiful appearance.

The flowery tops of roſemary, freſh-gathered, contain its greateſt virtue. If they are uſed in the manner of tea for a continuance of time, they are excellent againſt head-achs, tremblings of the limbs, and all other nervous diſorders. A conſerve is made of them alſo, which very well anſwers this purpoſe: But when the conſerve is made only of the picked flowers, it has leſs virtue. The conſerve is beſt made by beating up the freſh-gathered tops with three times their weight of ſugar. The famous Hungary water is made alſo of theſe flowery tops of Roſemary. Put two pound of theſe into a common ſtill, with two gallons of molaſſes ſpirit, and diſtil off one gallon and a pint. This is Hungary water.

Rosa Solis, or Sundew. *Roſa Solis.*

A very ſingular and very pretty little plant, common in boggy places on our heaths. It grows ſix or ſeven inches high; the leaves all riſe immediately from the root; they are roundiſh and hollow, of the breadth of a ſilver twopence, and placed on foot-ſtalks of an inch long; they are covered in a very extraordinary manner with long red hairs, and in the midſt of the hotteſt days they have a drop of clear liquor ſtanding on them; the ſtalks are ſlender and naked; at their tops ſtand little white flowers, which are ſucceeded by ſeed-veſſels, and of an oblong form,

containing a multitude of ſmall ſeeds. The root is fibrous.

The whole plant is uſed freſh gathered. It is eſteemed a great cordial, and good againſt convulſions, hyſteric diſorders, and tremblings of the limbs, but is not much regarded.

Rhubarb. *Rhabarbarum.*

A TALL, robuſt, and not unhandſome plant, a native of many parts of the Eaſt, and of late got into our gardens, after we had received many others falſely called by its name.

It grows to three feet in height. The ſtalk is round, thick, ſtriated, and of a greeniſh colour, frequently ſtained with purple. The leaves are very large, and of a figure approaching to triangular; they are broad at the baſe, ſmall at the point, and waved all along the edges; theſe ſtand on thick hollowed foot-ſtalks, which are frequently alſo reddiſh; the flowers are whitiſh, ſmall, and inconſiderable; they ſtand at the tops of the ſtalks in the manner of dock-flowers, and make little more figure; the ſeed is triangulated; the root is thick, long, and often divided toward the bottom, of a yellow colour veined with purple, but the purple appears much more plainly in the dry, than in the freſh root.

The root is uſed: Its virtues are ſufficiently known, it is a gentle purge, and has an after-aſtringency. It is excellent to ſtrengthen the ſtomach and bowels, to prevent vomitings, and carry off the cauſe of cholics; in the jaundice alſo it is extremely uſeful. Rhubarb and nutmeg, toaſted together before the fire, make an excellent remedy againſt purgings. There is ſcarce any chronic diſeaſe in which rhubarb is not ſerviceable.

The rhapontic monks rhubarb and falſe monks rhubarb all approach to the nature of the true rhubarb; they have been deſcribed already in their ſeveral places.

Rue. *Ruta.*

A pretty little ſhrub, frequent in our gardens. It grows three or four feet high. The ſtem is firm, upright, and woody, very tough, and covered with a whitiſh bark; the branches are numerous, and the young ſhoots are round, green, and ſmooth; the leaves are compoſed of many ſmaller diviſions, they are of a blue green colour, and fleſhy ſubſtance, and each diviſion is ſhort, obtuſe, and roundiſh; the flowers are yellow, not large, but very conſpicuous; they have a quantity of threads in the centre, and they are ſucceeded by rough ſeed-veſſels.

Rue is to be uſed freſh-gathered, and the tops of the young ſhoots contain its greateſt virtue; they are to be given in infuſion; or they may be beaten up into a conſerve with three times their weight of ſugar, and taken in that form. The infuſion is an excellent medicine in fevers, it raiſes the ſpirits, and promotes ſweat, drives any thing out, and is good againſt head-achs, and all other nervous diſorders which attend certain fevers. The conſerve is good againſt weakneſſes of the ſtomach, and pains in the bowels. It is pleaſant, and may be taken frequently by people ſubject to hyſteric diſorders with great advantage.

Rupture-wort. *Herniaria.*

A little low plant, wild in ſome parts of the kingdom, but not common, and kept in the gardens of the curious. It grows three or four inches long, but the ſtalks lie on the ground: Many grow from the ſame root, and they ſpread into a kind of circular figure. They are ſlender, round, jointed, and of a pale green; the leaves are very ſmall, and nearly of an oval figure; they ſtand two at each joint, and

are alſo of a pale green; the leaves are very ſmall, the root is very long, but not thick.

The juice of the freſh-gathered herb, externally applied, has been much celebrated againſt ruptures: Perhaps without any great foundation. An infuſion of it, taken inwardly, works by urine, and is very good againſt the gravel, and in the jaundice.

S.

Saffron. *Crocus.*

A very pretty plant, of the ſame kind with what are called *crocus's* in our gardens. It is planted in fields in ſome parts of England, and yields a very profitable kind of produce. The flowers of this plant appear in autumn, but the leaves not till ſome time after they are fallen. Theſe flowers have, properly ſpeaking, no ſtalk; they riſe immediately from the root, which is roundiſh, and as big as a large nutmeg, and they ſtand a little way above the ſurface of the ground; they are of a purpliſh blue, and very large; the lower part is covered with a ſkinny huſk. In the centre of theſe ſtand three ſtamina, or threads, with yellow tops, which are uſeleſs; but in the midſt between theſe riſes up what is called the *piſtil of the flower*. This is the rudiment of the future ſeed-veſſel, it is oblong and whitiſh, and at its top ſeparates into three filaments; theſe are long, and of an orange-ſcarlet colour; theſe three filaments are the only part of the plant that it uſed, they are what we call *ſaffron*. They are

carefully taken out of the flower and preſſed into cakes, which cakes we ſee under the name of *Engliſh ſaffron*, and which is allowed to be the beſt in the world.

The leaves are long and graſſy, of a dark green colour, and very narrow. They are of no uſe.

Saffron is a noble cordial.

Bastard Saffron. *Carthomus.*

A plant in its whole aſpect as unlike to that which produces the true ſaffron as one herb can be to another, but called by this name becauſe of the yellow threads which grow from the flowers. It is of the thiſtle kind, two feet and a half high, and very upright. The ſtalk is round, angulated, and branched, but it is not prickly. The leaves are oblong, broad, round at the points, and prickly about the edges. The flowers ſtand at the tops of the branches; they conſiſt of roundiſh, ſcaly, and prickly heads, with yellow flowers growing from amongſt them: Theſe are like the flowers in the heads of our thiſtles, but narrower and longer.

Theſe flowers are uſed by the dyers in ſome parts of Europe. The ſeed is the part taken into the ſhops: It is longiſh, covered, and white with a hard covering. It is to be given in infuſion, which works both by vomit and ſtool, but not violently. It is good againſt rheumatiſms and the jaundice.

Sagapenum-Plant. *Sagapenum.*

A large plant, native of Perſia and the Eaſt Indies, and deſcribed but imperfectly to us; however, ſo that we have confirmation that the deſcription is authentic, if not ſo finiſhed in all its parts as we could wiſh. It grows upon the mountains, and is eight feet high; the leaves are very large, and are com-

poſed of a great multitude of little parts, which are fixed to a divided rib, and are of a bluiſh green colour, and, when bruiſed, of a ſtrong ſmell. The ſtalk is thick, ſtriated, round, hollow, and upright; purpliſh toward the bottom, but green upwards; the leaves which ſtand on it are like thoſe which riſe from the root, only ſmaller; the flowers are little and yellowiſh; they ſtand in very large umbels at the tops of the ſtalks, each of them is ſucceeded by two ſeeds; theſe are flat, large, brown, and ſtriated; the root is long, thick, of a yellowiſh colour, and of a diſagreeable ſmell. This is the account we have from thoſe who have been of late in the Eaſt; and there is a great deal to confirm it. We find among reſin, which is brought over to us, pieces of the ſtalk, and many ſeeds of the plant; Theſe agree with the deſcription. I procured ſome of the ſeeds picked out of ſome ſagapenum, by young Mr. Siſſon, to be ſowed with all proper care at Lord Petres, whoſe principal gardener was an excellent perſon at his buſineſs, and with them ſome ſeeds of the ammoniacum plant, picked alſo out of a large quantity of that gum. Thoſe of the ammoniacum plant all periſhed. From the ſagapenum ſeeds, though more than an hundred were ſown, we had only one plant, and that periſhed by ſome accident very young; but what we ſaw of the leaves gave credit to the account given of the plant by Mr. Williams, who told us he had ſeen it in Perſia. Theſe are curious parts of knowledge, and they are worth proſecuting by thoſe who have leiſure: The ſucceſs of this experiment ſhews the poſſibility of raiſing ſome of thoſe plants at home, which we never have been able to get truly or fully deſcribed to us.

We uſe a gum reſin obtained from the roots of this plant, by cutting them and catching the juice; we call this, when concreted into lumps, *ſagapenum*. We have it either finer in ſmall pieces, or coarſer in maſſes; it is browniſh with a caſt of red, and will

grow ſoft with the heat of the hand; it is diſagreeable both in ſmell and taſte, but it is an excellent medicine. It is good for all diſorders of the lungs ariſing from a tough phlegm, and alſo in nervous caſes. It has been found a remedy in inveterate head-achs, after many other medicines have failed. It is one of thoſe drugs too much neglected by the preſent practice, which encourages the uſe of others that have not half their virtue; but there are faſhions in phyſic, as there are in all other things.

Red Sage. *Salvia Hortenſis.*

The common ſage of our gardens. It is a kind of ſhrubby plant a foot or two high, and full of branches. The ſtem is tough, hard, woody, and covered with a brown rough bark; the ſmaller branches are reddiſh, the leaves are oblong and broad; they ſtand on long foot-ſtalks, and are of a ſingular rough ſurface, and of a reddiſh colour; the flowers grow on ſtalks that riſe only at that ſeaſon of the year, and ſtand up a great deal above the reſt of the ſurface of the plant; they are large and blue, and are of the figure of the dead nettle flowers, only they gape vaſtly more. The whole plant has a pleaſing ſmell. The leaves and tops are uſed, and they are beſt freſh; the common way of taking them in infuſion, or in form of what is called *ſage-tea*, is better than any other; they are cordial, and good againſt all diſeaſes of the nerves; they promote perſpiration, and throw any thing out which ought to appear upon the ſkin. The juice of ſage works by urine, and promotes the menſes.

Sage of Virtue. *Salvia minor.*

Another ſhrubby plant, very like the former in its manner of growth, but wanting its red colour. It is a foot or two in height, and very buſhy; the ſtem is woody, the branches are numerous, the leaves are

oblong, narrower than in common ſage, and of a whitiſh green colour: There is often a pair of ſmall leaves at the baſe of each larger. The flowers grow in the ſame manner as in the red ſage, but they are ſmaller. The whole plant has a pleaſant ſmell.

The green tops are uſed, and their virtues are much the ſame with thoſe of the former, but they are leſs. It got into uſe from an opinion that the other was too hot, but this was idle.

Wood-Sage. *Salvia Agreſtis.*

A wild plant, common in woods and hedges, with leaves like ſage, and ſpikes of ſmall flowers. It grows two feet and a half high. The ſtalk is ſquare, firm, ſlender, and upright; the leaves ſtand two at each joint; they are ſomewhat ſhorter and broader than thoſe of ſage, of a green colour, and ſerrated about the edges; the flowers are numerous and very ſmall; they ſtand in long ſpikes, and are of a greeniſh yellow colour, with ſome red threads in them. The plant has a ſingular ſmell, with ſomething of the garlic flavour, but that not ſtrong.

The tops are to be uſed freſh. Made into an infuſion they promote urine and the menſes; the juice of them drank for a continuance is excellent againſt rheumatic pains.

The Salep Plant. *Orchis Orientalis.*

A very pretty plant, of the nature of our common orchis, native of the Eaſt, but growing to a greater height, and producing larger roots than with us, tho' it ſeems very nearly allied to what we call the *tall female orchis*, with large flowers, which is frequent in our meadows. It grows in damp ground, and is a foot high. The ſtalk is round, juicy, and tender; the leaves are eight inches long, and not an inch broad, of a dark green colour, and alſo juicy; the

flowers ſtand at the tops of the ſtalk, in a ſpike of two inches long; they are moderately large, and of a pale red colour; the root is compoſed of two roundiſh bodies, of the bigneſs of a pigeon's egg, and of a white colour, with ſome fibres.

We uſe the root, which we receive dry from Turkey. They have a peculiar method of curing it: They make it clean, and then ſoke it four and twenty hours in water; after this, they hang a quantity of it in a coarſe cloth over the ſteam of a pot in which rice is boiling; this ſoftens it, but it gives it a ſort of tranſparence, and qualifies it for drying; theſe juicy roots otherwiſe growing mouldy. When they have thus far prepared it, they ſtring it upon a thread, and hang it in an airy place to dry: It becomes tough as horn, and tranſparent. This is a practice common in the Eaſt, with the roots they dry for uſe, and it would be well if we would practiſe it here: The fine tranſparent kind of ginſeng, which we have from China, is dried in this manner. It is highly probable, nay it is nearly a certainty, that the roots of our common orchis have all the qualities and effects of this ſalep, but we do not know how to dry them. If we tried this method it might ſucceed, and in the ſame manner our own fields and meadows might afford us many medicines, which at preſent we purchaſe at a great price from the fartheſt parts of the earth.

The dried root is the part uſed; and it is an excellet reſtorative to be given to perſons waſted with long illneſſes: The beſt way is to put a ſmall quantity of it in powder into a baſon of warm water, which it inſtantly turns into a jelly, and a little wine and ſugar are to be added. The Turks uſe it as a provocative to venery: They take it diſſolved in water, with ginger and honey.

Samphire. *Crithmum Maritimum.*

A plant not uncommon about ſea-coaſts, with much of the appearance of fennel, only not ſo tall: Some have called it *ſea-fennel.* It is two feet high. The leaves are large, and divided in the manner of thoſe of fennel into ſlender and ſmall parts, but they are thick and fleſhy. The ſtalk is round, hollow, ſtriated, and a little branched; the flowers are ſmall and yellow, and they ſtand at the tops of the ſtalks in great cluſters, or umbels, in the manner of thoſe of fennel. The whole plant has a warm and agreeable taſte, and a good ſmell.

The leaves are uſed freſh, but thoſe which grow immediately from the root, where there is no ſtalk, are beſt: They are pickled and brought to our tables; but they are often adulterated, and others things pickled in their place. The juice of the freſh leaves operates very powerfully by urine, and is good againſt the gravel and ſtone, againſt ſuppreſſions of the menſes, and the jaundice.

Sanicle. *Sanicula.*

A pretty wild plant, common in our woods, and diſtinguiſhed by its regular leaves and ſmall umbels of flowers. It grows a foot and a half high. The leaves are numerous, and they all riſe immediately from the root. They ſtand on long foot-ſtalks, and are very conſpicuous. They are of a roundiſh ſhape, but cut in ſo as to appear five-cornered, ſerrated about the edges, and of a very deep gloſſy green colour and ſhining ſurface. The ſtalk is ſtriated, upright, and naked: On its top grows a little round cluſter of flowers: They are ſmall and white, and each is ſucceeded by two little rough ſeeds. The root is fibrous.

The leaves are uſed. A ſtrong decoction of them is good againſt the overflowing of the menſes, and the bleeding of the piles. It has been vaſtly celebrated for the cure of ruptures, but that is idle.

The Sarsaparilla Plant. *Sarſaparilla.*

A plant of the climbing kind, native of the warmer countries. The ſtalks run to ten or twelve feet in length, but are weak, and ſupport themſelves among buſhes; they are whitiſh, angular, and ſtriated, and are full of ſmall prickles; the leaves are an inch long, or more, and above half an inch broad, of an oval figure, of a deep green on the upper-ſide, and white underneath, firm in their texture, and very gloſſy; the flowers are little and yellowiſh; the berries are black, round, and of the bigneſs of a ſmall pea; the root is very large and ſlender.

The root is uſed; our druggiſts keep it; they ſplit it it in two. It is brown on the outſide, and white within, and its taſte is inſipid. It is ſuppoſed to have great virtues, but they are not perfectly eſtabliſhed. They have been at times diſputed, and at times ſupported. Given in decoction, it promotes ſweat and urine. It has been eſteemed good againſt the ſcurvy, and famous in the cure of the venereal diſeaſe. It is in general accounted a ſweetener of the blood.

The Sassafras-Tree. *Saſſafras.*

A beautiful tree, native of America, and to be met with in ſome of our gardens. It grows twenty-five or thirty feet high; the trunk is naked till it comes near the top; the branches grow near together, and ſpread irregularly; the leaves are of two kinds; thoſe on the older parts of the twigs are oblong and pointed, ſomewhat like bay-leaves; and thoſe on the tops of the branches are larger, broader, and divided into three parts, like the leaves of maple,

or they carry ſome reſemblance of the ſmaller leaves of the fig-tree. The flowers are ſmall and yellow; the fruit are berries like bay-berries; the wood is of a reddiſh colour and perfumed ſmell.

The wood is uſed. Our druggiſts receive it in logs, and cut it out into ſhavings. The wood of the root is beſt, and its bark contains moſt virtue of all. It is beſt taken in infuſion by way of tea, for it is very pleaſant: It promotes ſweat, and is good againſt the ſcurvy, and all other foulneſſes of the blood. It is a conſtant ingredient in diet-drinks againſt the venereal diſeaſe.

Savine. *Sabina.*

A little garden ſhrub, green all the winter. The trunk is covered with a reddiſh brown bark; the branches are numerous, and ſtand confuſedly; the leaves are ſmall, narrow, of a dark green colour, and prickly; the flowers are very ſmall, and of a yellowiſh colour; and the fruit is a ſmall berry, of a black colour when ripe, and covered with a bluiſh duſt like the bloom of a plum.

The tops of the young branches are uſed. They are beſt freſh, and given in the manner of tea. They very powerfully promote the menſes; and, if given to women with child, will frequently cauſe a miſcarriage. The country people give the juice mixed with milk to children, as a remedy againſt worms: It generally works by ſtool, and brings worms away with it.

Summer-Savory. *Satureia Hortenſis.*

A common little plant in our kitchen-gardens. It is ten inches or a foot high. The ſtalks are numerous, and very hard, and woody toward the bottom. The leaves are oblong and narrow; they ſtand two at each joint, with a quantity of young ones in their

boſoms. The flowers grow on the upper parts of the ſtalks among the leaves; they are white, with a little tinge of bluiſh or reddiſh. The whole plant has a pleaſant ſmell, and an agreeable taſte.

The whole plant is uſed. An infuſion of it, drank in the manner of tea, is good againſt cholicky pains, and it opens obſtructions, and promotes the menſes.

There is another kind of ſavory, with more woody ſtalks, called *winter-ſavory:* This has much the ſame virtues.

The Red Saunders Tree. *Santalum rubrum.*

A tree, native of the Weſt-Indies, but of which we have ſeen nothing but the wood, and have received very imperfect deſcriptions; they ſay it grows forty feet high; that the leaves are ſmall, but many ſet near together; their colour is a duſky green, and their ſubſtance thick and fleſhy; the flowers are like pea-bloſſoms, and the fruit is a pod containing three or four ſeeds. This is all we have been informed concerning the tree, and part of this by hearſay only.

The wood is uſed. It is of a deep red colour. It is aſtringent, and is good againſt violent purgings and overflowings of the menſes: For the former purpoſe, it is beſt given in powder in ſmall doſes; and for the latter, it is given in decoction; but it is not much uſed.

The Yellow and White Saunders Tree. *Santalum flavium et album.*

A beautiful tree, native of the Eaſt-Indies. It grows forty or fifty feet high, and is very much branched. The leaves ſtand two or three pairs upon a ſtalk, in the manner of thoſe of the lentiſk, and are not unlike thoſe of that tree in ſhape; they are

of a dark green colour, ſmall, oblong, and fleſhy; the flowers are moderately large, and of a deep duſky blue; the fruit is a berry of the bigneſs of a large red cherry, which is black when ripe; the wood is white in the outer part, and yellow at the heart, and theſe two parts are kept ſeparate, and were long ſuppoſed the woods of two different trees; they have the ſame ſmell and taſte, only that the yellow has them both in greateſt perfection; and in the ſame manner their virtues are the ſame, but the yellow is ſo much ſuperior, that the white deſerves no notice.

The yellow ſaunders is beſt taken in the manner of tea; it is this way not unpleaſant, and is cordial, good againſt diſorders of the nerves and hyſteric complaints, and opens obſtructions; it alſo gently promotes perſpiration, and works by urine.

White Saxifrage. *Saxifraga alba.*

A very pretty plant in our meadows, diſtinguiſhed by the regular ſhape of its leaves, and its white ſnowy flowers. It grows ten inches high, the ſtalk is round, thick, firm, upright, and a little hairy; the leaves are of a pale green colour, and fleſhy ſubſtance; they are of a roundiſh figure, and indented about the edges, and they ſtand upon long foot-ſtalks; the flowers are large and white; they grow in conſiderable numbers on the tops of the ſtalks; the root is compoſed of a parcel of ſmall white or reddiſh granules.

The root is uſed, and theſe ſmall parts, of which it conſiſts, have been uſed to be called by ignorant apothecaries *ſaxifrage-ſeed*. It is diuretic, and good againſt the gravel. The roots are beſt freſh, and the beſt way of giving them is in decoction.

Meadow Saxifrage. *Seſeli Pratenſe.*

A wild plant alſo, but though known by the ſame Engliſh name with the other, very different in form and flower. It grows to more than two feet in height. The ſtalks are round, deeply ſtriated, of a dark green colour, and conſiderably branched; the leaves are large, but they are divided into a multitude of fine narrow ſegments; the flowers ſtand at the tops of the ſtalks in little umbels or round cluſters, and they are ſmall and yellow; the root is brown, long, and ſlender, and is of an aromatic and acrid taſte.

The root is uſed: It is beſt freſh taken up. Given in a ſtrong infuſion; it works powerfully by urine, and brings away gravel; it alſo eaſes thoſe cholics, which are owing to the ſame cauſe.

Scabious. *Scabioſa.*

A common wild plant in our corn-fields, diſtinguiſhed by its tall round ſtalks, and round blue flowers. It grows to three feet in height; the leaves riſe principally from the root, and they lie ſpread upon the ground; they are oblong, and irregularly divided at the edges; they are of a pale green, hairy and rough to the touch; the ſtalks are round, upright, hairy, of the ſame pale green colour, and they have a few leaves on them, placed two at a joint; theſe are more deeply divided than thoſe on the ground. The flowers ſtand at the tops of the branches; they are of a deep blue colour, and each is compoſed of a number of ſmaller floſucles, collected into a head; the root is long and brown.

The leaves growing from the root, are to be gathered for uſe before the ſtalks appear. They are beſt freſh. A ſtrong infuſion of them is good againſt aſthmas and difficulty of breathing, and the ſame infu-

ſion made into a ſyrup is good againſt coughs: the flowers are ſaid to be cordial, and an infuſion of them to promote ſweat, and carry off fevers, but this is leſs authentic, the juice externally applied is good againſt foulneſs of the ſkin.

The Scammony Plant. *Scammonia.*

A climbing plant, native of the Eaſtern parts of the world. The ſtalks are numerous, green, ſlender, and angulated; they are five or ſix feet long, but unable to ſupport themſelves without the help of buſhes; the leaves ſtand irregularly, and not very cloſe to one another; they are of a triangular figure, and bright green colour, and they ſtand upon long foot ſtalks; the flowers are large and bell-faſhioned; they reſemble very much thoſe of our common little bind-weed, being whitiſh, but they oftener have a yellowiſh than a reddiſh tinge; the root is a foot and half long, and as thick as a man's arm, full of a milky juice; they wound the roots, and catch the milky juice as it runs out in ſhells; and this when it has concreted into a hard maſs is the ſcammony we uſe.

It is a rough purge, but a very powerful and uſeful one: It is good againſt the rheumatic pains, and will reach the ſeat of many diſorders that a common purge does not affect. However, it is ſeldom given alone: And a great misfortune is, that the compoſitions made with it are never to be perfectly depended upon, becauſe there is ſo much difference in ſeveral parcels of ſcammony, that they ſeem hardly the ſame medicine, ſome are ſo very ſtrong, and ſome ſo weak.

Garden Scurvy-Grass. *Cochlearia Hortenſis.*

A common wild plant about our ſea-coaſts, but kept alſo in gardens for its virtues: It is a foot high: The ſtalks are round, weak, and green; the leaves that riſe from the root, make the moſt conſiderable ap-

pearance; they ſtand in a large tuft, and are of a roundiſh figure, and a bright green colour, tender, juicy, and ſupported on long and ſlender foot-ſtalks: There are but few leaves on the ſtalks, and they are not ſo round as thoſe from the root, but are a little angular and pointed; the flowers ſtand at the tops of the ſtalks, in little cluſters; they are white, ſmall, and bright; they are ſucceeded by ſhort roundiſh ſeed-veſſels.

The freſh leaves are uſed, and the beſt way of all is to drink the expreſſed juice of them; this is excellent againſt the ſcurvy, and all other foulneſſes of the blood. It may be mixed with Seville-orange juice to make it pleaſant, and ſhould be taken every day for ſix weeks or two months together in ſpring.

Sea Scurvy-Grass. *Cochlearia Marina.*

A common plant alſo about our ſea-coaſts, and by the ſides of rivers where the tide comes. The leaves are not ſo numerous as thoſe of the other, and they are oblong, of a reddiſh green colour, pointed at the ends, and indented at the edges in an irregular manner; they are conſiderably larger than thoſe of garden ſcurvy-graſs, and more fleſhy; the ſtalks are eight or ten inches high; they are tender, round, and ſtriated; they have few leaves on them, but the flowers are ſmall and white, and ſtand in cluſters at the tops of the ſtalks, as in the other. The leaves are to be uſed freſh gathered, or their juice is to be taken. Their virtues are the ſame as thoſe of the other. But it is the general opinion that they are greater, though the taſte be not ſo agreeable.

The Sebesten Tree. *Nyxa, ſive Sebeſten.*

A tree of the bigneſs and form of our common plum-tree, and producing a fruit not altogether unlike it. The trunk is covered with a rough bark;

the branches grow irregularly and are crooked, and are generally ſo ſlender toward the ends, and ſo full of leaves that they bend downward; the leaves are broad and ſhort; the flowers are white, ſmall, and ſweet ſcented; they ſtand in tufts or cluſters, and the cup in which they ſtand, remains and incloſes the fruit. This is ſomewhat like a plum, and has a kernel in the ſame manner: Its ſhape is oblong, and the pulpy part of it is ſo tough and clammy, that being beaten up with water; it makes good birdlime.

This fruit is the part uſed; it is ſent over to us dried in the manner of a prune: It uſed to be a conſtant ingredient in decoctions for coughs and diſorders of the lungs, but it is now diſregarded.

Self-Heal. *Prunella.*

A little wild plant common about way-ſides, with dark green leaves, and ſhort tufts of blue flowers. It grows ſix inches high; the ſtalk is ſquare, and a little hairy; the leaves ſtand in pairs upon it, but there are ſeldom more than two or three pair, the great quantity of them riſe immediately from the root; they are oblong, broad, blunt at the point, and not at all indented at the edges; the flowers are ſmall, they ſtand in a kind of ſhort ſpikes or heads; the cups of them are often purpliſh; the root is ſmall and creeping, and full of fibres; the juice of ſelf-heal is aſtringent; it is good againſt purgings, with very ſharp or bloody ſtools, and againſt overflowings of the menſes. The dried herb made into an infuſion, and ſweetened with honey, is good againſt a ſore throat, and ulcers of the mouth.

The Sena Shrub. *Sena.*

A little ſhrub, three or four feet high, native of the Eaſt. The trunk is covered with a whitiſh and rough bark; the leaves are compoſed each of three pair of ſmaller, diſpoſed on a common rib, with an

odd one at the end: They are oblong, narrow, and ſharp-pointed, of a ſmooth ſurface, a thick ſubſtance, of a pale green colour, and not indented at the edges. The flowers are like a pea-bloſſom in ſhape, but they are yellow, marked with purple veins. The pods are ſhort and flat, and the ſeeds are ſmall and brown.

We have the dried leaves from the Eaſt; the druggiſts keep them; they are given in infuſion, and are an excellent purge, but as they are apt to gripe in the working, the common method is to throw in a few cardamom-ſeeds, or ſome other warm medicine into the water.

Bastard Sena. *Colutea.*

A common ſhrub kept for ornament in our gardens. The trunk is not very robuſt, but it keeps upright, and is covered with a whitiſh rough bark; the leaves are compoſed each of ſeveral pairs of ſmaller, ſet on a common rib, with an odd leaf at the end; but they are rounder, and broader, in proportion to their length, than thoſe of the true ſena; the flowers are yellow; they are but ſmall, but they hang in long bunches, and are ſucceeded by pods, which look like bladders, of a greeniſh colour.

The leaves are uſed, ſome give an infuſion of them as a purge, but they are very rough: They work both upwards and downwards, and are only fit for very robuſt conſtitutions. For ſuch as can bear them, they are good againſt rheumatic pains.

The Senega Tree. *Senica.*

A tree frequent in the Eaſt, and named from a gum which it affords, and which is brought in great quantities into Europe. The tree is large and ſpreading, its trunk is covered with a rough bark, its branches with a ſmoother, of a pale brown, and they are very full of thorns.

The leaves are large, and they are compoſed of many ſmaller ſet in pairs, very beautifully and evenly about a common rib, with an odd one at the end of each rib: They are oblong, and of a beautiful green. The flowers are white, and of the ſhape of a pea-bloſſom; the fruit is a large and flat pod jointed or divided into ſeveral parts with ſeeds in them; the tree is of the Acacia kind, in many things very like that which produces the gum Arabic; and the gum which is obtained from it, is in the ſame manner very like that.

This gum is the only product of the tree heard of in medicine, and this is not much. It is brought over, however, in great quantities, for the dyers uſe a great deal of it. It is in large lumps of the bigneſs of an egg; rough on the ſurface, but gloſſy and ſmooth when broken, and of a pale brown colour. It is as eaſily and intirely diſſolved in water as gum Arabic, and has the ſame virtues. It is very ſeldom called for by name in medicine, but it is nevertheleſs often uſed, for the druggiſts have a way of breaking the lumps to pieces, and putting them among the gum Arabic; they may be diſtinguiſhed by their brown colour, the true gum Arabic being white; or yellowiſh, if coloured at all, and never having any brown in it: Some pick theſe brown pieces out, but, upon a ſeparate trial, they are found to be ſo perfectly of the ſame nature, that it is a needleſs trouble.

The Right Service Tree. *Sorbus Legitima.*

A tree wild in ſome parts of this kingdom, but not known in others, nor even in many of our gardens. It grows twenty feet high or more, and the branches ſtand very irregularly. The leaves are each compoſed of ſeveral pairs of ſmaller, ſet on a common rib, with an odd one at the end; theſe are long, narrow, and ſerrated, ſo that they have ſome reſemblance of the aſh-tree. The flowers are not large; they are

white, and ſtand in cluſters. Each is ſucceeded by a fruit of the ſhape of a pear, and of the bigneſs of ſome pears of the ſmaller kind; theſe are green, except where they have been expoſed to the ſun, where they are ſometimes reddiſh; the taſte is very pleaſant, when they are ripe.

The unripe fruit is uſed; they preſs the juice, and give it againſt purgings, but it is little known.

The Common Service Tree. *Sorbus vulgaris.*

A large tree and very beautiful, its growth being regular, and the leaves of an elegant ſhape; the bark of the trunk is greyiſh, and tolerably ſmooth; on the branches it is brown; the leaves are ſingle, large, and of a rounded figure, but divided into five, ſix, or ſeven parts, pretty deeply, and ſerrated round the edges; they are of a bright green on the upper part, and whitiſh underneath; the flowers are little and yellowiſh, and they grow in cluſters; the fruit is ſmall and brown when ripe; it grows in bunches.

The unripe fruit of this ſervice is excellent againſt purgings, but it can only be had recourſe to when in ſeaſon, for there is no way of preſerving the virtue in them all the year.

Shepherds-Purse. *Burſa Paſtoris.*

The moſt common almoſt of all wild plants, overrunning our garden-beds, and court-yards. The leaves ſpread upon the ground, and are long, ſomewhat broad, and more or leſs indented at the edges; for in this there is great variation: The ſtalks are round, upright, and eight or ten inches high; they have few leaves on them; the flowers ſtand at the tops in little cluſters, and they are ſmall and white; below there is commonly a kind of ſpike of the ſeed-veſſels; theſe are ſhort, broad, and of the figure of a bag, or pouch, and are divided a little at

the end; the ſeeds are ſmall and yellowiſh, and the roots white.

The juice of ſhepherds-purſe is cooling and aſtringent; it is good againſt purgings, with ſharp and bloody ſtools, againſt the bleeding of the piles, and the overflowings of the menſes.

SKIRRET. *Siſarum.*

A PLANT kept in our kitchen-gardens. It grows three or four feet high. The ſtalk is round, hollow, ſtriated, and ſomewhat branched; the leaves are each compoſed of three or five ſmaller, two or four ſet oppoſite, and one at the end; they are oblong, ſerrated at the edges, and ſharp-pointed; the end leaf is longer than the others; the flowers are little; they ſtand in round cluſters on the tops of the branches; the root is of a ſingular form: it is compoſed of ſeveral long parts like carrots; they are of a good taſte, and ſome people eat them at their tables.

A decoction of them works by urine, and is good againſt the gravel. The roots boiled in milk, are an excellent reſtorative to people who have ſuffered long illneſſes.

THE SLOE TREE. *Prunus Sylveſtris.*

THE common low ſhrub in our hedges, which we call the *black thorn.* It is a plum tree in miniature. It grows five or ſix feet high; the trunk and branches are all covered with a dark purpliſh or blackiſh bark; the leaves are roundiſh, and of a good green, elegantly dentated about the edges; the flowers are ſmall and white; the fruit is a little plum, of a very auſtere taſte when unripe, but pleaſant when mellow.

The juice expreſſed from unripe ſloes, is a very good remedy for fluxes of the belly. It may be boiled down to a firm conſiſtence, and will ſo keep the

whole year. We uſed to find this dried juice kept by druggiſts under the name of *German acacia*, but they neglect it.

SMALLAGE. *Apium.*

A COMMON wild plant, about ditch-ſides, with the appearance of celery. Theſe are very numerous and large. The ſtalks riſe two feet and a half in height, and is round, ſmooth, ſtriated, and branched. The leaves on it are like thoſe from the root, compoſed of many ſmall parts, which are broad and indented, but they are ſmaller. The flowers ſtand in little umbels at the diviſions of the branches: They are ſmall, and of a yellowiſh white. The ſeeds are ſmall and ſtriated. The roots are long, not very thick, white, and of a ſtrong, but not diſagreeable taſte.

The roots are moſt uſed; a ſtrong infuſion of them freſh gathered, works briſkly by urine. It is good againſt the gravel, and in jaundices and other diſeaſes ariſing from obſtructions in the liver and ſpleen. The ſeeds dried are good againſt the cholic, and ſtrengthen the ſtomach.

THE COLURINE-WOOD, OR SNAKE-WOOD TREE. *Lignum Colubrinum.*

A TALL tree of the Eaſt, irregular in its growth, but not without beauty. The bark is rough and brown; the leaves are large, broad in the middle, oblong, and ſharp at the point. They are of a deep green colour, and firm ſubſtance; the flowers are ſmall; they grow in cluſters upon the branches, not at their extremities, but in different parts of them; the fruit is large, and much of the ſhape of a walnut; it is yellow when ripe, and contains a great many round flat ſeeds. Theſe are exactly of the ſhape and form of what we call *nux vomica*; but they are not half ſo big. Some have, for this reaſon, ſuppoſed the real

nux vomica to be the fruit of this tree; but it is produced by another of the ſame genus. The wood of the ſmaller branches is uſed; this is what we called *lignum colubrinum*, adder-wood, and ſnake-wood. It is famous in the Eaſt, for curing fevers, and deſtroying worms; they alſo ſay it is a remedy againſt the bites of ſerpents, and hence comes its name. We have been tempted to give it in ſome caſes; but it ſeems better ſuited to the conſtitutions of the people among whom it grows, than to ours: It brings on convulſions, if given in too large a doſe, or if too freſh. It looſes its ſtrength by degrees in keeping; but I do not know how it can be poſſible to determine what doſe to give of ſuch a medicine.

Sneezewort. *Ptarmica.*

A very pretty wild plant, with daiſy-like flowers, and narrow dentated leaves. It grows two feet high. The ſtalk is round, firm, upright, and but little branched; the leaves are very numerous, and they ſtand irregularly; they are an inch or more in length, and very narrow, rough to the touch, and of a bright green; the flowers ſtand at the tops of the ſtalks, ſo that they form a kind of round head, they are leſs than daiſies, and their leaves broader.

The leaves of ſneezewort, dried and powdered, taken by way of ſnuff, are excellent againſt the headach. The roots dried are almoſt as fiery as pellitory of Spain, and they cure the toothach in the ſame manner. A piece held in the mouth, fills it with rheum in a minute.

Solomon's Seal. *Polygonatum.*

A pretty plant, wild in ſome places, and frequent in gardens. It grows a foot and half high. The ſtalk is round, ſtriated, and of a pale green, naked half way up, and from thence to the top ornamented

with large oval leaves of a pale green, blunt, ſmooth, ribbed, and not at all indented at the edges. The flowers hang from the under part of the ſtalk; they are ſmall and white; the fruit is a berry as big as a pea, and black when ripe; the root is white, oblong, irregular, and creeps under the ſurface of the ground.

The root is the part uſed: It is commended extremely, for an outward application againſt bruiſes. The root dried and powdered, is good againſt purgings, with bloody ſtools, and the freſh root, beat up into a conſerve with ſugar, againſt the whites.

Sopewort. *Saponaria.*

A wild plant, but not very common. It is two feet high. The ſtalk is round, thick, jointed, and of a pale green; the knots are large; the leaves ſtand two at each joint; they are of an oval figure, and dark green colour; ſmooth, not dentated at the edges, and full of large ribs; the flowers ſtand in a kind of cluſters at the tops; they are white or reddiſh, and not very large; the root is knobbed, and has a great many fibres running from it; it is of a diſagreeable mawkiſh taſte.

The root is uſed, and it ſhould be freſh taken up, a decoction of it opens obſtructions, and promotes urine and perſpiration. It is an excellent ſweetener of the blood.

Sorrel. *Acetoſa.*

A common plant in our meadows, with broad and oblong leaves, ſtriated ſtalks, and reddiſh tufts of flowers. It is a foot and half high. The ſtalk is round, not very firm, upright, and little branched; the leaves are of a deep green, angulated at the baſe, blunt at the point, and not at all indented about the edges; the flowers ſtand on the tops of the ſtalks, in the manner of thoſe of docks, of which ſorrel is in-

deed a ſmall kind. They are reddiſh and huſky, the root is ſmall and fibrous, the whole plant has a ſour taſte.

The leaves eaten as a ſalad, or the juice taken, are excellent againſt the ſcurvy. The ſeeds are aſtringent, and may be given in powder for fluxes. The root dried and powdered is alſo good againſt purgings, the overflowings of the menſes, and bleedings.

There are two other kinds of ſorrel nearly of kin to this, and of the ſame virtue: One ſmall, called *ſheeps-ſorrel*, common on dry banks; the other large, with broad leaves, called *garden-ſorrel*, or *round-leaved ſorrel:* This is rather preferable to the common kind. Beſides theſe, there is a plant called in Engliſh a *ſorrel*, ſo different from them all, that it muſt be deſcribed ſeparately.

Wood-Sorrel. *Luiula.*

A very pretty little plant, common about our wood-ſides, and diſtinguiſhed by its bright green elegant leaves and pretty flowers; the leaves riſe in conſiderable numbers from the ſame root; they ſtand three together upon ſeparate, long, and very ſlender foot-ſtalks, of a reddiſh colour, each is of a heart-like ſhape, the broad and indented part hanging downwards, and the three ſmaller ends meeting on the ſummit of the ſtalk; the flowers are whitiſh, tinged with purple, very bright and delicate, they ſtand alſo on ſingle ſtalks, and riſe immediately on the root; the ſeed-veſſels are large, and, when ripe, they burſt aſunder with the leaſt touch, and the ſeeds fly about; the root is ſmall and irregular.

The leaves are uſed; they are to be freſh gathered, their root is very agreeably acid, and the juice of them makes a pretty ſyrup; the leaves alſo, beat up with three times their weight of ſugar, make an excellent conſerve; they are good to quench thirſt in

fevers, and they have the ſame virtue with the other againſt the ſcurvy and in ſweetening the blood.

SOUTHERNWOOD. *Abrotanum Mas.*

A SHRUBBY plant, native of many parts of Europe, but kept in our gardens; the ſtem is woody and tough, and is covered with a brown bark; the leaves are divided into fine ſlender parts, and are of a pale green, whitiſh colour, and ſtrong ſmell; the flowers are ſmall and yellowiſh, they grow in great numbers on the top of the ſtalk, and are naked, and of a rough appearance; the ſeeds are longiſh, and of a pale brown.

The tops of the young branches are uſed: A decoction of them is good againſt worms, but it is a very diſagreeable medicine. Beaten into a conſerve, with three times their weight of ſugar, they are not very unpleaſant, and they are in this form good againſt nervous diſorders, and in all hyſteric complaints.

SOWTHISTLE. *Sonchus Aſper.*

A COMMON weed in our gardens, and about our houſes. It is three feet high; the ſtalk is round, thick, green, and upright; the leaves are long, and not very broad; they are indented at the edges, and prickly between the indentings. When any part of the plant is broken, there runs out a milky juice. The flowers are large and yellow; they are ſomewhat like thoſe of dandelion, and ſtand in a kind of ſcaly cup; the ſeeds have down affixed to them; the root is long and white.

The leaves are to be uſed freſh gathered; a ſtrong infuſion of them works by urine, and opens obſtructions. Some eat them in ſalads, but the infuſion has more power. There are three or four other kinds of ſowthiſtle common in ſome places with this, and

deed a ſmall kind. They are reddiſh and huſky, the root is ſmall and fibrous, the whole plant has a ſour taſte.

The leaves eaten as a ſalad, or the juice taken, are excellent againſt the ſcurvy. The ſeeds are aſtringent, and may be given in powder for fluxes. The root dried and powdered is alſo good againſt purgings, the overflowings of the menſes, and bleedings.

There are two other kinds of ſorrel nearly of kin to this, and of the ſame virtue: One ſmall, called *ſheeps-ſorrel*, common on dry banks; the other large, with broad leaves, called *garden-ſorrel*, or *round-leaved ſorrel:* This is rather preferable to the common kind. Beſides theſe, there is a plant called in Engliſh a *ſorrel*, ſo different from them all, that it muſt be deſcribed ſeparately.

Wood-Sorrel. *Luiula.*

A very pretty little plant, common about our wood-ſides, and diſtinguiſhed by its bright green elegant leaves and pretty flowers; the leaves riſe in conſiderable numbers from the ſame root; they ſtand three together upon ſeparate, long, and very ſlender foot-ſtalks, of a reddiſh colour, each is of a heart-like ſhape, the broad and indented part hanging downwards, and the three ſmaller ends meeting on the ſummit of the ſtalk; the flowers are whitiſh, tinged with purple, very bright and delicate, they ſtand alſo on ſingle ſtalks, and riſe immediately on the root; the ſeed-veſſels are large, and, when ripe, they burſt aſunder with the leaſt touch, and the ſeeds fly about; the root is ſmall and irregular.

The leaves are uſed; they are to be freſh gathered, their root is very agreeably acid, and the juice of them makes a pretty ſyrup; the leaves alſo, beat up with three times their weight of ſugar, make an excellent conſerve; they are good to quench thirſt in

fevers, and they have the ſame virtue with the other againſt the ſcurvy and in ſweetening the blood.

SOUTHERNWOOD. *Abrotanum Mas.*

A SHRUBBY plant, native of many parts of Europe, but kept in our gardens; the ſtem is woody and tough, and is covered with a brown bark; the leaves are divided into fine ſlender parts, and are of a pale green, whitiſh colour, and ſtrong ſmell; the flowers are ſmall and yellowiſh, they grow in great numbers on the top of the ſtalk, and are naked, and of a rough appearance; the ſeeds are longiſh, and of a pale brown.

The tops of the young branches are uſed: A decoction of them is good againſt worms, but it is a very diſagreeable medicine. Beaten into a conſerve, with three times their weight of ſugar, they are not very unpleaſant, and they are in this form good againſt nervous diſorders, and in all hyſteric complaints.

SOWTHISTLE. *Sonchus Aſper.*

A COMMON weed in our gardens, and about our houſes. It is three feet high; the ſtalk is round, thick, green, and upright; the leaves are long, and not very broad; they are indented at the edges, and prickly between the indentings. When any part of the plant is broken, there runs out a milky juice. The flowers are large and yellow; they are ſomewhat like thoſe of dandelion, and ſtand in a kind of ſcaly cup; the ſeeds have down affixed to them; the root is long and white.

The leaves are to be uſed freſh gathered; a ſtrong infuſion of them works by urine, and opens obſtructions. Some eat them in ſalads, but the infuſion has more power. There are three or four other kinds of ſowthiſtle common in ſome places with this, and

they have all the ſame virtues, but this has them moſt in perfection.

Speedwell. *Veronica Mas.*

A commom little plant in our dry paſtures, and on heaths. The ſtalks are ſix or eight inches long; the leaves are ſhort, and of an oval figure; the ſtalks are not upright; they trail along the ground, only riſing at thin upper parts; the leaves are of a pale green colour, a little hairy, and dentated at the edges; the flowers are ſmall and blue, they grow in ſlender ſpikes, ariſing from the boſoms of the leaves; the root is ſmall and fibrous.

The whole herb is uſed, and it is beſt freſh. An infuſion of it drank in quantities works by urine, and opens all obſtructions; it promotes the menſes. There was an opinion lately that this plant would cure the gout. The dried leaves picked from the ſtalks were ſold in our markets, and people made a tea of them. The opinion was ſo prevalent, that the plant was in a manner deſtroyed for many miles about London; but, like all other things that want truth for their foundation, it came to nothing.

Spignel. *Meum.*

A wild plant, not altogether unlike fennel. It grows two or three feet high. The ſtalks are round, ſtriated, and branched; the leaves are large, and divided like thoſe of fennel, but into narrower and finer parts, and they are of a very dark green colour; the flowers little and white, but they ſtand in cluſters at the tops of the ſtalks, and are conſpicuous by their numbers; the root is long and brown, and there are always a quantity of filaments at the head of it like hairs; theſe are the fibres of the ſtalks of former leaves.

Spurge Laurel



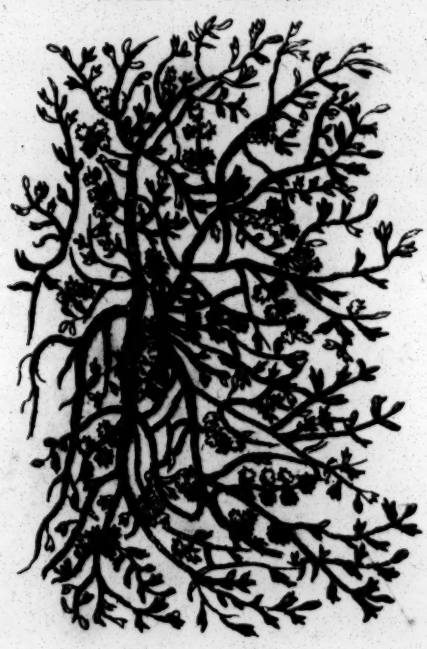
Spleenwort



Wild Tansy



Swines Creſses



Tobacco



Teasel



The root is uſed, and it is beſt freſh taken up. An infuſion of it is an excellent medicine in the gravel; it alſo opens obſtructions, and promotes the menſes; the root dried, and given in powder, ſtrengthens the ſtomach, creates an appetite, and is good againſt the cholic.

SPINAGE. *Spinachia.*

A COMMON herb in our kitchen-gardens. It grows two feet high, the ſtalk is round, thick, and juicy; the leaves are broad, and cleft at the baſes, ſo that they reſemble a broad arrow head; the flowers are inconſiderable, the ſeeds grow on other plants of the ſame kind, and are rough and prickly; the root is white and oblong.

The leaves are eaten at our tables, but their juice may very well be recommended as a medicine. It works by urine, and is good againſt the gravel. The leaves eaten frequently keep the body open.

SPLEENWORT. *Aſplenium.*

A SINGULAR plant, of the nature of the ferns, but not like any of them in form; the root is fibrous; from this the leaves riſe in great numbers together, each being a diſtinct and ſeparate plant; they are narrow, and five inches long, deeply indented on each ſide, but very irregularly, and covered on the under part with ſmall ſeeds. When they firſt grow from the root they are folded inward, ſo that only the under part appears, and they have a very peculiar aſpect, more like ſome inſect than the leaf of a plant. It grows on old walls, and is green all the winter, but has moſt virtue in ſpring.

The whole plant is uſed. It is beſt given in infuſion, and muſt be continued for ſome time: It opens all obſtructions of the liver and ſpleen, and is excellent in diſorders ariſing from that cauſe. They ſay

MEDICAL LIBRARY

the powder of the dried leaves cures the rickets, but this wants proof.

Indian Spikenard. *Nardus Indica.*

An Eaſt India plant, of the graſs-kind, with triangular ſtalks, and yellowiſh flowers. It reſembles not a little that common yellow tufted graſs, which is frequent in our meadows in ſpring. It is ſix or eight inches high. The leaves are long, narrow, and of a pale green; they are very numerous, and ſtand in a thick tuft, almoſt growing together at the baſes; the ſtalks riſe among theſe, they are naked, triangular, and of a pale green colour; the flowers ſtand in tufts, of the bigneſs of an horſe-bean; on the tops of the ſtalks they are blackiſh, but ornamented with yellow threads, which give the whole a yellowiſh appearance. This is the plant, ſome ſamples of which have been of late brought over as the Indian ſpikenard, and there is reaſon and authority for ſuppoſing they are ſo. The tops of the roots have that ſort of tuft of hairy matter which we call *Indian ſpikenard* growing to them, and it is of the nature of the hairy top of the ſpignel root, owing to the fibres of decayed leaves. Breynius alſo calls the plant, which alſo affords the Indian ſpikenard, a kind of *Cyperus graſs.*

The tuft of fibres at the tops of the root of this plant, is what we call *Indian ſpikenard*; they are brown, flattiſh, matted together, and of a pleaſant ſmell; they are good in diſorders of the nerves and hyſteric caſes, but ſo many better medicines are at hand, that this is rarely uſed.

Sponge. *Spongia.*

A sea plant of a very ſingular kind and form; it has neither leaves, ſtalks, nor branches, nor has it the colour or aſpect of our ordinary plants; it more

approaches to the nature of the muſhrooms than of any other of the vegetable kinds; it grows to the rocks, and ſwells out into an irregularly ſhaped maſs of matter, full of holes, of a yellowiſh colour, and retaining a great deal of water, which is eaſily preſſed out, and is received again on dipping it again in the wet. It is of a roundiſh figure, and ſometimes hollow. Sponge, in the ſhape of a funnel, is frequently ſeen, and has been deſcribed as a particular ſpecies, but this is only an accident in the growth.

It would be very imprudent to ſwallow ſponge in its natural form; but calcined, it is of excellent ſervice to ſweeten the blood, and is good againſt the ſcurvy and the evil: Great care is to be taken in the burning it. It muſt be made brittle and fit for powdering, but if it be calcined too long, all the volatile parts will be driven off, and it will be worth nothing.

Great Spurge. *Eſula major.*

We have many kinds of ſpurge wild in England, and ſome of them large enough, but this uſed in medicine is a different ſpecies. It is native of Germany, and is kept in our gardens. It grows a yard high, the ſtalk is round, thick, reddiſh, and divided into branches; the leaves are numerous, and ſtand irregularly; they are narrow and of a pale green, and are broadeſt at the end; the flowers are little, and of a pale yellow, but the ſeed-veſſels are large, and make a conſpicuous figure on the tops of the branches; the root is very thick and long; it conſiſts of a firm heart covered with a thick rind. The whole plant, when broken, affords a milky acrid juice.

The bark of the root is uſed dry, and even in that ſtate it is very rough in its operation. It works by ſtool and vomit, and is good in the rheumatiſm and

the powder of the dried leaves cures the rickets, but this wants proof.

Indian Spikenard. *Nardus Indica.*

An Eaſt India plant, of the graſs-kind, with triangular ſtalks, and yellowiſh flowers. It reſembles not a little that common yellow tufted graſs, which is frequent in our meadows in ſpring. It is ſix or eight inches high. The leaves are long, narrow, and of a pale green; they are very numerous, and ſtand in a thick tuft, almoſt growing together at the baſes; the ſtalks riſe among theſe, they are naked, triangular, and of a pale green colour; the flowers ſtand in tufts, of the bigneſs of an horſe-bean; on the tops of the ſtalks they are blackiſh, but ornamented with yellow threads, which give the whole a yellowiſh appearance. This is the plant, ſome ſamples of which have been of late brought over as the Indian ſpikenard, and there is reaſon and authority for ſuppoſing they are ſo. The tops of the roots have that ſort of tuft of hairy matter which we call *Indian ſpikenard* growing to them, and it is of the nature of the hairy top of the ſpignel root, owing to the fibres of decayed leaves. Breynius alſo calls the plant, which alſo affords the Indian ſpikenard, a kind of *Cyperus graſs.*

The tuft of fibres at the tops of the root of this plant, is what we call *Indian ſpikenard*; they are brown, flattiſh, matted together, and of a pleaſant ſmell; they are good in diſorders of the nerves and hyſteric caſes, but ſo many better medicines are at hand, that this is rarely uſed.

Sponge. *Spongia.*

A sea plant of a very ſingular kind and form; it has neither leaves, ſtalks, nor branches, nor has it the colour or aſpect of our ordinary plants; it more

approaches to the nature of the muſhrooms than of any other of the vegetable kinds; it grows to the rocks, and ſwells out into an irregularly ſhaped maſs of matter, full of holes, of a yellowiſh colour, and retaining a great deal of water, which is eaſily preſſed out, and is received again on dipping it again in the wet. It is of a roundiſh figure, and ſometimes hollow. Sponge, in the ſhape of a funnel, is frequently ſeen, and has been deſcribed as a particular ſpecies, but this is only an accident in the growth.

It would be very imprudent to ſwallow ſponge in its natural form; but calcined, it is of excellent ſervice to ſweeten the blood, and is good againſt the ſcurvy and the evil: Great care is to be taken in the burning it. It muſt be made brittle and fit for powdering, but if it be calcined too long, all the volatile parts will be driven off, and it will be worth nothing.

Great Spurge. *Eſula major.*

We have many kinds of ſpurge wild in England, and ſome of them large enough, but this uſed in medicine is a different ſpecies. It is native of Germany, and is kept in our gardens. It grows a yard high, the ſtalk is round, thick, reddiſh, and divided into branches; the leaves are numerous, and ſtand irregularly; they are narrow and of a pale green, and are broadeſt at the end; the flowers are little, and of a pale yellow, but the ſeed-veſſels are large, and make a conſpicuous figure on the tops of the branches; the root is very thick and long; it conſiſts of a firm heart covered with a thick rind. The whole plant, when broken, affords a milky acrid juice.

The bark of the root is uſed dry, and even in that ſtate it is very rough in its operation. It works by ſtool and vomit, and is good in the rheumatiſm and

dropſy, but it is not every conſtitution that can bear the uſe of ſuch remedies.

The lesser Spurge. *Eſula minor.*

A lesser plant than the former, but ſufficiently robuſt; it is a native of the ſame part of the world, but is common in our gardens. It is a foot high. The leaves are longiſh and very narrow, but rounded at the end; the ſtalks are thick, round, and red; the flowers are ſmall and yellow, and the ſeed-veſſels large and three-cornered. The whole plant is full of a ſharp milky juice, but moſt of all the root.

The bark of the root is uſed. It works by vomit and ſtool as the former, but though with leſs violence, yet too rough for moſt conſtitutions. It is good in the rheumatiſm.

Squill. *Scilla.*

A very common plant by the ſea-ſide in Italy, and other parts of Europe, but not native of this country. It grows a yard high, and when in flower is very beautiful; the ſtalk is thick, round, fleſhy, and green, or elſe reddiſh; the flowers are white; they are ſmall, but they have their beauty. They ſtand in a long ſpike down a third part of the ſtalk; the leaves are very large and long, they are of a deep green colour, and grow immediately from the root; the root is round, and of a pound weight; it is compoſed like an onion of many coats, one over another, and is full of an acrid ſlimy juice; the colour is white or red, and they call it the *white* or *red ſquill.*

The root is uſed dried or infuſed in vinegar or wine, and that afterwards made into a ſyrup with honey. Theſe three preparations are called the *wine of ſquills*, *vinegar of ſquills*, and *oxymel of ſquills*; they are all good againſt aſthmas, and difficulty of breathing. The oxymel is moſt given for this pur-

poſe, the vinegar cauſes vomiting, and cleanſes the ſtomach; the wine of ſquills works by urine, and is good againſt the jaundice and dropſy.

STAR-WORT. *After Aticus.*

A COMMON wild plant in many parts of Europe and in the Grecian iſlands, but not here: We have it in gardens; it is a foot and a half high; the ſtalk is round, hairy, and branched, the leaves are oblong, moderately broad, and rounded at the ends, and of a duſky green; the flowers are yellow and large; they reſemble the marigold; it is ſingular that there ſtand ſome leaves under this flower diſpoſed in rays like a ſtar; the root is long.

The freſh leaves are uſed, and that only externally. Bruiſed, and laid on as a poultice, they are a cure for buboes, and other hard ſwellings. The plant is called alſo *inguinalis*, from its peculiar effect in diſſipating buboes of the groin.

THE STAR-THISTLE. *Calcitrapa.*

A WILD plant on our heaths, but not very common. It is two feet high, and extremely branched; the ſtalks are round, hard, and whitiſh; the principal leaves riſe from the root, and are diſpoſed in a circular manner on the ground; they are oblong, and divided along the ſides quite to the middle-rib; there are ſome ſmaller on the ſtalk, but few; the flowers are numerous; they are red, and of the form of the flowers of thiſtles; they grow out of a ſcaly and thorny head; the ſeeds are winged with down; the root is oblong.

The root is uſed; a ſtrong infuſion of it is excellent againſt the gravel, and is good alſo in the jaundice. It opens obſtructions, and works by urine.

The Starry-Headed Anise-Tree.
Aniſum Stellatum.

A tall and very beautiful tree, native of the Eaſt, and much eſteemed there. The trunk is covered with a thick bark; the branches are irregular and ſpreading; the leaves are very large and beautiful, they are compoſed each of ten or twelve pair of others ſet on a common rib, with an odd one at the end; they are longiſh, broad, ſerrated at the edges, and pointed at the ends, and are of a beautiful pale green colour, and of a fragrant ſmell when bruiſed, ſuch as that we perceive in the young leaves of the walnut-tree, but with a mixture of ſomewhat aromatic; the flowers ſtand at the tops of the branches, on divided pedicles, they are white and very fragrant. The fruit is of a ſingular figure, of the ſhape of a ſtar, and of a woody ſubſtance; it is compoſed of five or more rays, and in each is a ſingle ſmooth brown ſeed; theſe have the ſmell of aniſeeds, and thence have been called by the name, for there is not the leaſt reſemblance between the plants which produce the two, one being a ſmall herb, and the other a large and fine tree.

The fruit is only uſed, and we ſometimes ſee it at the druggiſts; if the preſent practice, encouraged it, we might have it common enough; and it is one of thoſe drugs which we neglect, while we are fond of ſuch as do not deſerve the diſtinction. It is an excellent medicine againſt coldneſs of the ſtomach, cholics, and thoſe head-achs which ariſe from indigeſtion. It alſo works powerfully by urine, and with it poſſeſſes all the virtues of aniſeed and many others, and even theſe in a very ſuperior degree; it has not its diſagreeable flavour. An oil drawn from it by diſtillation is ſweet and excellent; it has all the virtues of our oil of aniſeed, but not its diſagreeable taſte, and it does not congeal like it in cold weather.

Staves-Acre. *Staphis Agria.*

A very pretty plant, native of Italy, and kept in our gardens. It is two feet and a half high; the ſtalk is round, thick, firm, and upright, and a little hairy; the leaves are of a roundiſh figure, but divided deeply into ſeven parts, and theſe ſerrated at the edges; they are large, and of a deep green, and ſtand on long foot-ſtalks; the flowers are of a deep blue, large, and very like the flowers of lark-ſpur; they grow in a ſpike at the tops of the ſtalks; the ſeed-veſſels are notched, and the ſeeds rough.

The ſeeds are uſed. Some venture to give them inwardly, in ſmall doſes, againſt the rheumatiſm, and the venereal diſeaſe. They operate by vomit and ſtool, and bring a great quantity of water from the mouth. The powder of them is moſt uſed to kill vermin, by ſprinkling it on childrens heads that have been kept uncleanly.

Golden Stoechas. *Stœchas Citrina.*

A pretty plant, native of the warmer parts of Europe, and kept in our gardens. It is a ſhrubby herb, two feet high, and keeps its leaves all the year; the ſtem is woody; the leaves ſtand thick on the lower branches, and they are longiſh, narrow, and whitiſh, eſpecially on the under-ſide; the flowers are yellow, and ſtand at the tops of the ſtalks; they are dry and chaffy, and may be kept for a long time. The whole plant has an agreeable ſmell when rubbed between the fingers.

The leafy ſtalks are uſed, their tops are beſt, and thoſe freſh-gathered: An infuſion of them works by urine, and opens obſtructions; it is good in jaundices and obſtructions of the menſes.

There is another plant called *Arabian Stœchas*, or *French lavender*. It has been deſcribed already under

the head of lavender, to which it belongs, for it is altogether different from this plant.

The Storax Tree. *Styrax Arbor.*

A small tree, native of the Eaſt, and ſome parts of Europe, but in Europe it yields none of the reſin we call *ſtorax*; we have it in ſome gardens; it is twenty feet high; the trunk is covered with a brown bark; that on the branches is greyiſh; the leaves are of a browniſh or a duſky green on the upper-ſide, and whitiſh underneath; the flowers are white and large, the fruit is like a nut, roundiſh and little, and is covered with a woolly coat; three of the flowers grow together uſually, and are ſucceeded by three of theſe.

We uſe no part of the tree, but a reſinous ſubſtance which is produced from it. This is kept at the druggiſts, and is reddiſh, and of a fragrant ſmell, but very foul. It is good in all diſeaſes of the breaſt and lungs, being an excellent balſam. It is alſo good in all nervous and hyſteric complaints, and it promotes the menſes.

Strawberry Plant. *Fragaria.*

A very common little plant both in our woods and gardens. The leaves ſtand three upon each ſtalk, and they are large, broad, ſharp at the point, and ſerrated about the edges; the ſtalks trail upon the ground, and take root at the joints; the flowers are white, they ſtand four or five together upon a long foot-ſtalk riſing from the root, and without any veins; they are white, and moderately large; the fruit is well known. When ripe it is red, and of an agreeable taſte.

The freſh leaves are uſed; an infuſion of them is a good liquor to waſh a ſore mouth or throat with; taken in large quantities it works by urine, and is good againſt the jaundice.

Succory. *Cichoreum.*

A common plant in our gardens. It is near a yard high, but of no great beauty. The ſtalk is round, ſtriated, thick, green, and ſtrong; the principal leaves grow from the root, they are long, narrow, and deeply indented, and are of a bluiſh green, and hairy; thoſe on the ſtalks are ſmaller, and have no foot-ſtalks; the flowers are of the ſhape of thoſe of dandelion, but they are blue; the ſeed is winged with down; the flowers grow to the ſides of the ſtalks, not at the tops, as in dandelion; the root is long and brown on the ſurface; it is full of a milky juice, and white within.

The root is uſed; an infuſion of it opens obſtructions; it is good againſt the jaundice. A decoction of the whole plant, freſh gathered, works powerfully by urine, and is good againſt the gravel. It alſo gently promotes the menſes.

The Sugar-Cane. *Arundo Saccharifera.*

A kind of reed, native of the Eaſt and Weſt Indies, of the Canary Iſlands, and of ſome other places, and cultivated in all our plantations. It is eight or ten feet high. The ſtalk is round, hollow, hard, jointed, and upright; it is very like that of a common reed, only ſo much thicker; the leaves are like thoſe of the reed, but vaſtly larger, and the flowers are in the ſame manner, dry, brown, and chaffy, but the cluſter of them is a yard long; the roots are long, creeping, and jointed in the manner of the ſtalk. In very hot countries the ſugar will ſweat out at the cracks of the ſtalks, and ſtand in form of a bright powder; this is native ſugar, and is what the ancients meant when they talked of honey growing upon reeds. We preſs out the juice, and boil it to the conſiſtence of

brown ſugar, which is afterwards refined, and becomes the white powder, or loaf-ſugar.

It were idle to talk of the virtues of ſugar, its uſes are ſufficiently known, and are very great.

SUMACH. *Rhus.*

A SHRUB, native of warmer countries, but common in our gardens. It is of a ſingular appearance. It does not grow to more than ten or twelve feet high; the wood is brittle, and the bark is brown; the leaves are long and very beautiful, each conſiſts of a great many pairs of ſmaller leaves, with an odd one at the end; theſe are ſingly, oblong, and of a dark green, and ſerrated at the edges; the flowers are white, they grow in very large, thick, and long cluſters, and are ſucceeded by flat ſeeds, hairy, and roundiſh, and of an auſtere aſtringent taſte. There are ſeveral other kinds of ſumach in the gardens of the curious, ſome of them much more beautiful, but this is the kind that is to be preferred for its medicinal virtues.

The ſeeds, dried and powdered, ſtop purgings, and the overflowings of the menſes. The freſh tops have alſo great effect in ſtrengthening the ſtomach and bowels; they are beſt taken in infuſion. The bark of the root has the ſame virtue, but the ſeeds have it in the greateſt degree.

SWALLOW-WORT. *Aſclepias.*

A COMMON plant in gardens, but native of the warmer climates. It is two feet high. The ſtalks are round, ſlender, of a dark colour, and jointed; the leaves are large and longiſh, and of a deep green; they ſtand two at each joint. The flowers are ſmall and white, and each is ſucceeded by two pods growing together; the root is fibrous and ſpreading.

The root is uſed; an infuſion of it freſh is good againſt the jaundice; it works by urine, and opens obſtructions. Dried and given in powder, it operates by ſweat, and is good in fevers.

T.

The Tacamahac Tree. *Tacamahacca.*

A large and beautiful tree, native of the Eaſt, and of America. It is fifty or ſixty feet high. The bark is brown on the trunk, and greyiſh on the branches. The leaves are large and longiſh, ſharp-pointed, and dentated at the edges; they are of a duſky green on the upper-ſide, and browniſh underneath. The flowers are inconſiderable and yellowiſh; the fruit is ſmall and round; the buds of the tree are very fragrant; a brown kind of reſin iſſues from them, which ſticks to the fingers, and this has that pleaſant ſmell.

We uſe no part of the tree, but a reſin which is produced from it. The druggiſts keep this. It is brown, ſome of it is in grains, and ſome in a maſs. It is uſed only externally; a plaiſter made of it, ſpread on leather, is applied to the forehead againſt the head-ach, and to the navel in hyſteric caſes, but it does not ſeem to have much efficacy.

The Tamarind-Tree. *Tamarindus.*

A very pretty tree, native of both the Eaſt and Weſt Indies, and kept in many of our gardens. The trunk

brown ſugar, which is afterwards refined, and becomes the white powder, or loaf-ſugar.

It were idle to talk of the virtues of ſugar, its uſes are ſufficiently known, and are very great.

SUMACH. *Rhus.*

A SHRUB, native of warmer countries, but common in our gardens. It is of a ſingular appearance. It does not grow to more than ten or twelve feet high; the wood is brittle, and the bark is brown; the leaves are long and very beautiful, each conſiſts of a great many pairs of ſmaller leaves, with an odd one at the end; theſe are ſingly, oblong, and of a dark green, and ſerrated at the edges; the flowers are white, they grow in very large, thick, and long cluſters, and are ſucceeded by flat ſeeds, hairy, and roundiſh, and of an auſtere aſtringent taſte. There are ſeveral other kinds of ſumach in the gardens of the curious, ſome of them much more beautiful, but this is the kind that is to be preferred for its medicinal virtues.

The ſeeds, dried and powdered, ſtop purgings, and the overflowings of the menſes. The freſh tops have alſo great effect in ſtrengthening the ſtomach and bowels; they are beſt taken in infuſion. The bark of the root has the ſame virtue, but the ſeeds have it in the greateſt degree.

SWALLOW-WORT. *Aſclepias.*

A COMMON plant in gardens, but native of the warmer climates. It is two feet high. The ſtalks are round, ſlender, of a dark colour, and jointed; the leaves are large and longiſh, and of a deep green; they ſtand two at each joint. The flowers are ſmall and white, and each is ſucceeded by two pods growing together; the root is fibrous and ſpreading.

The root is uſed; an infuſion of it freſh is good againſt the jaundice; it works by urine, and opens obſtructions. Dried and given in powder, it operates by ſweat, and is good in fevers.

T.

The Tacamahac Tree. *Tacamahacca.*

A large and beautiful tree, native of the Eaſt, and of America. It is fifty or ſixty feet high. The bark is brown on the trunk, and greyiſh on the branches. The leaves are large and longiſh, ſharp-pointed, and dentated at the edges; they are of a duſky green on the upper-ſide, and browniſh underneath. The flowers are inconſiderable and yellowiſh; the fruit is ſmall and round; the buds of the tree are very fragrant; a brown kind of reſin iſſues from them, which ſticks to the fingers, and this has that pleaſant ſmell.

We uſe no part of the tree, but a reſin which is produced from it. The druggiſts keep this. It is brown, ſome of it is in grains, and ſome in a maſs. It is uſed only externally; a plaiſter made of it, ſpread on leather, is applied to the forehead againſt the head-ach, and to the navel in hyſteric caſes, but it does not ſeem to have much efficacy.

The Tamarind-Tree. *Tamarindus.*

A very pretty tree, native of both the Eaſt and Weſt Indies, and kept in many of our gardens. The trunk

is covered with a pale-coloured rough bark, the branches with a ſmoother. The leaves are each compoſed of a great many pairs of ſmaller, diſpoſed on a common rib, with no odd one at the end. They are ſmall, oval, and of a very pale or whitiſh green. The flowers are large and very pretty, they are part yellow and part white, the white leaves of them often ſtained with red; they ſtand in cluſters half a dozen together; the fruit is a flat pod, broad, brown, and hard; theſe contain a pulpy ſubſtance, and the ſeeds a ſtringy matter with them; the pulp, ſtrings, and ſeeds, are brought over to us, and the pulp is ſeparated for uſe: It is of a pleaſant acid taſte, and is a gentle and excellent purge; it works alſo by urine; it is good in the jaundice. The pulp is uſeful alſo to cool the mouth, and quench thirſt in fevers. It is not much uſed ſingly as a purge.

TAMARISK. *Tamariſcus.*

A LITTLE tree, frequent wild in France, and kept in our gardens: It grows, however, much larger in its native climate than here. The bark is brown on the trunk, and paler on the branches, and the young ſhoots are red and very ſlender; the leaves are very beautiful, they are of a fine bright green, delicately divided into ſmall parts, and regular; the flowers are very ſmall and red, but they ſtand in ſpikes, and very cloſe together; and as four or five of theſe ſpikes alſo often ſtand together, they are very conſpicuous; the ſeeds are ſmall, and lodged in a downy ſubſtance.

The bark is uſed dried, and the tops of the branches freſh; both have the ſame virtue; the one is beſt in decoction, the other in a light infuſion, made in the manner of tea; either is good to open obſtructions. They promote the menſes, are good in the jaundice, and, it is ſaid, againſt the rickets.

TANSY. *Tanacetum.*

A COMMON plant in our gardens. It is a yard high. The ſtalks are round, firm, upright, and of a pale green; the leaves are large, oblong, broad, and very beautifully formed; they are each compoſed of ſeveral pairs of ſmaller, ſet on each ſide of a common rib, with an odd leaf at the end; theſe are narrow, long, pointed, and ſerrated at the edges; the flowers ſtand in large cluſters at the tops of the ſtalks, and they are roundiſh, yellow, and naked; the root is a cluſter of large creeping fibres. The whole plant has a ſtrong ſmell.

The leaves are to be uſed freſh gathered; a ſtrong infuſion of them opens obſtructions, it works powerfully by urine, and gently promotes the menſes; the flowers dried, powdered, and mixed with treacle, are a common medicine for worms, and they viſibly deſtroy them.

WILD TANSY. *Argentina.*

A COMMON wild plant about our way-ſides, and a great ornament to them. It riſes to no height. The ſtalks creep upon the ground, and take root at the joints, but it is eaſily diſtinguiſhed by its ſilvery leaves and yellow flowers; the ſtalks are round and reddiſh; the leaves riſe from theſe; they are very large, and each compoſed of a great many pair of ſmaller, ſet on both ſides of a common rib, with an odd one at the end; they are of the ſhape, and much of the ſize of the leaves of tanſy, and the ſmaller leaves of which they are compoſed are oblong, narrow and ſerrated, but they are of a moſt beautiful colour, a fine ſilvery green on the upper-ſide, and a perfect ſilvery white on the under; the flowers ſtand on ſhort foot-ſtalks, and are large and yellow, ſome-

what like the flowers of the crow-foots, but more beautiful.

The leaves are uſed; a ſtrong infuſion of them is given with ſucceſs againſt the bleeding of the piles and bloody ſtools; and made leſs ſtrong and ſweetened a little with honey, it is excellent for a ſore throat. The women uſe it alſo to take away freckles, but this ſeems idle.

TARRAGON. *Dracunculus.*

A COMMON plant in our gardens. It is two feet high. The ſtalk is round, upright, firm, and green; the leaves are very numerous, and ſtand irregularly; they are longiſh and very narrow, and of a deep green colour; the flowers are little and greeniſh, in form like thoſe of wormwood, they ſtand in ſpikes at the tops of the ſtalks. The whole plant has a ſtrong ſmell, ſomewhat like fennel.

An infuſion of the freſh tops works by urine, and gently promotes the menſes.

TEA. *Thea.*

A SHRUB, native of the Eaſt, and cheriſhed there with great care. It is ſix or ſeven feet high. The branches are ſlender, the leaves are numerous, oblong, ſerrated round the edges, and ſharp-pointed; the flowers are as big as orange-flowers, and white; they ſtand in a very ſmall cup; the fruit is dry, and of the bigneſs of a nut, containing one, two, or three cells.

All the kinds of tea are the leaves of this ſhrub, they only differ as they are gathered in different ſtates, the bohea tea is gathered when the leaves are in the bud, and more heat is uſed in drying it. The ſeveral ſorts of green are got from the young ſhoots or older branches, in ſpring, in ſummer, or in au-

tumn, and dried with different degrees of care, according to their value.

Good green tea, drank moderately, ſtrengthens the ſtomach, and aſſiſts digeſtion; it is good againſt ſickneſſes, and will prevent the cholic: But when bad tea is drank, and a great deal of it, nothing is more pernicious. Bohea tea is more aſtringent, and it is reſtorative and ſtrengthening: This ſhould be drank with cream, but with only a moderate quantity of ſugar.

Teazle. *Dipſacus Sylveſtris.*

A tall and ſtately plant, common by road-ſides, with large bur-like heads, and little red flowers, growing out of them. It is ſix feet high. The ſtalk is ſingle, thick, white, and very ſtrong; the leaves grow two together, encompaſſing the ſtalk at their baſe, and make a hollow there, which will hold water: They are prickly on the under-part along the rib. The heads are as big as an apple, and ſomewhat oblong: They are of a pale colour. The root is long.

The root is uſed: it is bitter, and, given in infuſion, ſtrengthens the ſtomach, and creates an appetite. It is alſo good againſt obſtructions of the liver and the jaundice: People have an opinion of the water that ſtands in the hollow of the leaves, being good to take away freckles.

There is another kind of teazle, called the *manured teazle.* The heads are uſed in dreſſing of cloth, the virtues are the ſame, and they differ very little in their general form.

Blessed Thistle. *Carduus Benedictus.*

A plant once in great eſteem, and at preſent not altogether neglected. It is a native of the warmer countries, and is raiſed with us in gardens. It is two

feet high; the ſtalk is reddiſh, ſlender, and weak, very much branched, and ſcarce able to keep upright under the weight of leaves and heads. The leaves are long, narrow, cut in on both ſides, and of an obſcure green; the flowers are yellow, they ſtand in a kind of green leafy heads; the little leaves compoſing theſe heads are prickly, and each of the cups of the flowers end in a long brown ſpine, dented on both ſides.

It is a bitter and ſtomachic. An infuſion of it, taken in large quantities, will excite vomiting. In ſmaller draughts it is good to create an appetite, and prevents ſickneſſes and retchings. The leaves dried and powdered are good againſt worms. It was at one time ſuppoſed to poſſeſs very great virtues againſt fevers of all kinds, but that is now diſregarded.

Milk Thistle. *Carduus Mariæ.*

A very beautiful plant, common by road-ſides, but wanting only to have been a native of Greece, or the Indies, to be eſteemed one of the moſt elegant vegetables in the world. The leaves riſing from the foot are two feet long, and more than a foot broad, of a beautiful deep green, variegated all over with irregular lines of a milk white, dentated deeply at the edges, and prickly. They ſpread themſelves into a round of more than a yard diameter, and, when they grow out of the way of duſt, make a moſt charming appearance. A ſingle ſtalk riſes in the midſt of theſe. It is five feet high, round, thick, very firm, upright, and divided at the top into a few branches. The leaves on it are like thoſe from the root, and variegated with white in the ſame manner. At the tops ſtand the flowers, which are of the nature of thoſe of other thiſtles, but twice as big, and vaſtly more beautiful. The flowery part is of a deep and fine purple, the head itſelf is compoſed of beautiful ſcales arranged with great regularity, and each terminating

in a ſingle and very ſtrong prickle; the root is long and thick, the ſeeds are winged with down.

The root and ſeeds are uſed. An infuſion of the freſh root removes obſtructions, and works by urine; it is good againſt the jaundice. The ſeeds beaten up into an emulſion with barley-water are good in pleuriſies. The young leaves, with the prickles cut off, are excellent boiled in the way of cabbage, they are very wholeſome, and exceed all other greens in taſte.

THORN-APPLE. *Stramonium.*

A VERY beautiful plant, native of warmer climates, but frequent in our gardens; we ſometimes meet with it, as it is called, *wild;* but it is no native of our country. Seeds have been ſcattered from gardens.

It is three feet high; the ſtalk is round, thick, and divided into many branches. The leaves are very large, oblong, broad, and of a bright green, divided at the edges, and of a pretty appearance, but a very ill ſmell; the flowers are very large and white, they are hollow and long, open, and angulated at the brim; the fruit is as big as a large walnut, and is covered with prickles; the root is very long and thick, white, and of an ill ſmell.

The leaves are uſed externally; the country people lay them upon burns and inflammations, but this is not always ſafe. The root and ſeeds are of a ſleepy quality, but they are not thought ſafe to be given inwardly. Opium is a leſs dangerous medicine, ſo they are not uſed.

GOATS-THORN. *Tragacantha.*

A LITTLE white-looking prickly ſhrub, native of the Eaſt, but kept in our gardens. It is not above two or three feet high, very ſpreading, and full of

branches. The ſtem is of a tough and very firm ſubſtance, covered with a whitiſh rough bark: The branches are as tough, and the bark is pale, but ſmoother. The leaves are long and narrow; they are each compoſed of a great many pairs of ſmaller ſet on a middle rib, which is continued into a thorn, and when theſe leaves fall off, remains a white thorn of that length. The flowers are white and ſmall, they are of the ſhape of a pea-bloſſom, but flatter; the pods which follow are ſhort and flat.

No part of the ſhrub itſelf is uſed, but we have a gum produced by it, and called by its name in the ſhops; this is what they alſo call *gum dragant*; it is white and tough, and is in long twiſted pieces; it ſweats out of the bottom of the trunk in the heat of ſummer. It is good in coughs ariſing from a ſharp humour, and in ſharpneſs of urine, and ſharp ſtools, but it is a diſagreeable medicine: It is very difficultly powdered, and the ſolution is not pleaſant.

Thoroughwax. *Perfoliata.*

A very beautiful wild plant among our corn, diſtinguiſhed by the ſtalk growing through the leaves. It is three feet high. The ſtalk is round, firm, upright, whitiſh, and toward the top divided into ſome branches. The leaves are broad and oval, the ſtem runs through them toward the bottom, for they have no foot-ſtalks, and they ſurround it in their largeſt part, ending in a blunt point; they are of a bluiſh green colour, and not dented at the edges. The flowers are little and yellow, they ſtand in cluſters, or a kind of umbels at the tops of the branches, with a parcel of ſmall leaves placed under them. The root is white, oblong, and ſlender.

The leaves are uſed by the country people againſt wounds and bruiſes externally, the ſeeds are given inwardly to prevent the ill effects of internal hurts.

THYME. *Thymus.*

A COMMON plant in our kitchen-gardens, with hard and woody ſtalks, ſmall leaves, and pale red flowers. The height is eight or ten inches, the branches are numerous; the leaves ſtand two at each joint, and are of a duſky green; the flowers are diſpoſed in a kind of ſhort ſpikes at the tops of the ſtalks; the whole plant has a ſtrong ſmell, and an aromatic taſte.

A tea made of the freſh tops of thyme, is good in aſthmas, and ſtuffings of the lungs: It is recommended againſt nervous complaints; but, for this purpoſe, the wild thyme, called *mother of thyme*, is preferable. There is an oil made from thyme that cures the tooth-ach, a drop or two of it being put upon lint, and applied to the tooth; this is commonly called *oil of origanum*.

TOAD-FLAX. *Linaria.*

A COMMON wild plant, with narrow bluiſh leaves, and thick ſpikes of yellow flowers. It grows on dry banks, and is a foot and half high. The ſtalk is round and thick, firm, upright, and ſingle; the leaves ſtand irregularly, they are oblong, narrow, ſmooth, not dented at the edges, and pointed at the ends; the flowers ſtand in a ſhort and thick ſpike; they are large, and many of them are generally open together; they have a ſpur behind; and their fore-part is of two yellows, a darker in the middle, and a paler on each ſide.

The tops are uſed freſh gathered, or the whole herb dried. An infuſion of them is excellent againſt the jaundice, and all inward obſtructions; it gently promotes the menſes, and works by urine. A fine cooling ointment is made by boiling the freſh plant chopped to pieces in lard, till it be criſp, the lard

is then to be ſtrained off, and is of a fine green colour.

Tobacco. *Nicotiana.*

A TALL and beautiful plant, native of the Weſt-Indies, but kept in our gardens. It is five feet high. The ſtalk is round, thick, upright, ſingle, and a little hairy. It has a clammy dampneſs about it, by which it ſticks to the hands in touching. The leaves are very large, oblong, and pointed at the ends; they are of a duſky green colour, and feel alſo clammy like the ſtalk: the flowers are red and large; they are long, hollow, and open at the mouth: The ſeed-veſſel is oval, and the ſeeds are ſmall.

The leaves are good freſh or dried. A ſlight infuſion of them freſh gathered is a powerful vomit: It is apt to work too roughly, but for conſtitutions that will bear it, is a good medicine againſt rheumatic pains. An ointment made of the freſh ones with lard, is good againſt the inflammation of the piles: The diſtilled oil is ſometimes dropped on cotton to cure the toothach, applying it to the tooth; the powder kills all kinds of vermine. As to the cuſtom of chewing and taking it as ſnuff, little can be ſaid for them from practice, and nothing from reaſon; nor much for ſmoaking. If theſe cuſtoms had any good tendency, it would be taken off by the conſtant practice.

There is a leſſer greener kind of tobacco, called *Engliſh tobacco.* It has the ſame virtues with the other, but in a more remiſs degree. The leaves are often ſold for thoſe of the other.

Tormentil. *Tormentilla.*

A VERY common wild plant, but very pretty, and of great virtue. The ſtalks are eight inches long, but they do not ſtand upright; they are very ſlender,

Tormentill



Marsh Trefoil



Tutsan



Valerian



Broad leaved Wormwood



Common Yarrow



round, and of a browniſh colour; the leaves ſtand ſeven or thereabout together at a joint, all riſing from one baſe; they are narrow, longiſh, pointed at the ends, and ſerrated at the edges, and of a deep green; the flowers are ſmall, but of a beautiful ſhining yellow; they grow on ſlender foot-ſtalks, and are of the ſhape and colour of the crowfoot flowers, only more beautiful, and much leſs; the roots are large, thick, and crooked, brown on the outſide and reddiſh within, and of an auſtere taſte.

The root is the part uſed, and it is beſt dried; it may be given in powder or decoction; the powder is excellent againſt the bleeding of the piles, bloody ſtools, and the overflowings of the menſes. Two ounces of the root, added to a quart of hartſhorn drink in the boiling, gives it a pretty colour, and adds to its virtue; the root is cordial as well as aſtringent, and operates a little by ſweat: This decoction is therefore very ſerviceable in fevers, attended with purgings; it checks this moderately, and is good againſt the fever at the ſame time.

TREE OF LIFE. *Arbor Vitæ.*

A SMALL tree of irregular growth, a native of America, but common in our gardens; the trunk is covered with a rough brown bark; the branches are numerous and irregular; the young twigs are flatted, and the leaves on them are very flat, and of a ſcaly texture; they are of a bright green, narrow, and ſomewhat like the leaves of cyprus, only not prickly; the flowers are whitiſh, ſmall, and inconſiderable: They ſtand towards the tops of the branches. The whole tree has a ſtrong and not agreeable ſmell; it brings into one's mind old bad cheeſe.

The young ſhoots, and tops of the branches, are uſed freſh. An infuſion of them is good againſt obſtructions of the lungs, but it muſt be ſlight, and the uſe continued.

The Gum Anime Tree. *Anime Arbor.*

A large and beautiful tree, native of America. Its trunk is covered with a rough brown bark; the leaves are large and oblong, they are not unlike thoſe of the common bay-tree in form, and they always grow two at a joint, one oppoſite to the other: They are very numerous; and the branches of the tree ſpread a great way; they are not at all naked, but the head ſeems at a diſtance a ſolid maſs: The leaves are of a firm texture, but when held up to the light, innumerable holes are ſeen in them, as they are in the leaves of St. John's-wort. The flowers are ſhaped like pea-bloſſoms; they are of a purple colour, and ſtand at the tops of the branches. The fruit is a large pod.

The only ſubſtance we owe to this tree, is what we commonly call *gum anime*, but that is a very ill name, it is properly a reſin. It is whitiſh, brittle, and very fragrant. We ſometimes alſo ſee at the druggiſts a greeniſh, browniſh, or reddiſh reſin, called *gum anime;* this comes from the Eaſt, and is what was originally known by that name; but at preſent the other only is uſed. It is a fine balſam, good in conſumptions, and againſt the whites: And it is put into ſome ointments, for old ulcers, with great advantage.

Trefoil. *Trifolium purpureum.*

A common wild plant in our meadows. It is eight inches high; the ſtalk is round and not very upright; the principal leaves riſe immediately from the root; they ſtand three together upon long foot-ſtalks, and are of an oval figure, but pointed; of a pale green colour, a little hairy, and have generally a white ſpot in the centre of each. The leaves on the ſtalks are of the ſame form, but little: The flowers ſtand at the

tops, in a kind of ſhort thick ſpikes; they are ſmall and red, and are followed by little flat pods.

The flowers are uſed; they are beſt freſh gathered, and given in infuſion. They are good againſt the bleeding of the piles; and while they are balſamic and aſtringent in the bowels, they work by urine.

TURMERIC. *Curcuma.*

A NATIVE of the Eaſt-Indies, and a very ſingular plant. The leaves riſe immediately from the root, and are long, broad, pointed at the ends, not dented at the edges, and of a very deep green colour. On other parts of the root, ſtand the ſtalks, which bear the flowers; theſe are a foot high, and of the thickneſs of a gooſe quill: They have only a kind of films inſtead of leaves; the flowers ſtand in ſhort thick ſpikes, and are of a red colour, longiſh and ſlender; they look very pretty in the ſpike, but do not laſt long; the root is oblong, thick, and of an irregular figure, whitiſh on the outſide, and of a deep yellow within; it creeps under the ſurface of the ground.

Our druggiſts keep theſe roots dry: They are good againſt the jaundice; they open all obſtructions, and promote the menſes, and work by urine.

TURBITH. *Turpethum.*

A PLANT of the bindweed-kind, native of the Eaſt-Indies. It grows to twelve feet in length, but the ſtalk is ſlender and weak, and cannot ſupport itſelf upright; the leaves are oblong, broad, and obtuſely pointed; the flowers are white and large; they very much reſemble thoſe of the common great bindweed, and the ſeed-veſſel is large and full of little ſeeds; the root is very long and ſlender.

The bark of the root is ſent us dry. It is properly indeed the whole root, with the hard woody part taken out of its centre. It is kept by our druggiſts;

it is a briſk purge given in a proper doſe, but it is very rarely uſed at this time.

The Turnip. *Rapum.*

A PLANT too common in our gardens to require a curious deſcription. The root is round and white, or purpliſh; the leaves are large, long, rough, and of a deep green; they are deeply cut at the edges, and large and round at the ends; the ſtalks are a yard high, round, ſmooth, firm, upright, and branched; the leaves on them are ſmall and ſmooth; the flowers are little and yellow, and they ſtand in a kind of long ſpikes; they are followed by long pods.

The roots are ſo frequently eaten, that few would think of their poſſeſſing any medicinal virtues, but being cut into ſlices, and ſtewed with ſugar, till their juice with the ſugar becomes a ſyrup; this is a very good medicine againſt a cough.

The Turpentine Tree. *Terrebinthus.*

A TALL tree in the Eaſt, where it is native; we have it in gardens, but it never ariſes to any great height here The bark is brown and rough; the branches are numerous and ſtand irregularly; the leaves are each compoſed of a double row of ſmaller ſet on a common rib, with an odd one at the end. Theſe are oval, and of a deep ſhining green. The flowers are ſmall and purple; they appear in form of cluſters of threads before the leaves; the fruit is long, but with a kernel of a reſinous taſte. The whole ſhrub has alſo a reſinous ſmell.

We uſe no part of the tree; but the fine Chio turpentine, the moſt eſteemed of all thoſe balſams, is obtained from it in the iſland whence it has its name. It is a pleaſant and an excellent medicine; it works by urine, and is an univerſal balſam. It is good in coughs and all other diſorders of the lungs, and it

ſtops the whites, and the weakneſſes after venereal complaints.

There are ſeveral other kinds of turpentine in uſe in the ſhops, produced from the different trees; the Venice turpentine is from the larch tree; the Straſburgh turpentine, from the yew-leaved fir, and the common turpentine from the wild pine; they all have been mentioned already, under the names of the ſeveral trees which produce them; but this is the fineſt kind. What is called *Cyprus turpentine*, is obtained from the ſame tree with the Chio turpentine, (the right turpentine tree) but it is coarſer and browner, otherwiſe the ſame with Chio.

TUTSAN. *Androſæmum.*

A VERY ſingular and beautiful plant, and of great virtues. It grows in our woods and under hedges, but not very common: It is kept in many gardens. It grows two feet in height: The ſtalks are firm and ſmooth; of a reddiſh colour, tolerably upright, and not at all branched, except for ſome young ſhoots near the top. The leaves ſtand two at each joint, oppoſite to one another, and at no great diſtance; they are very large, and of a ſhape approaching to oval; their colour is a browniſh green; they are ſmooth, and not ſerrated at the edges; the flowers are not very large, but of a beautiful yellow; they reſemble thoſe of St. John's-wort, and are like them full of yellow threads, which, when rubbed, ſtain the hands red; the fruit is a kind of berry, black when ripe, and containing a great quantity of ſmall ſeeds. The whole plant, in autumn, frequently appears of a blood-red colour, very ſingular and beautiful; the root is ſmall, reddiſh, and irregular, it creeps under the ſurface.

The leaves are an excellent cure for freſh wounds. Scarce any thing is equal to them. The young and tender ones at the tops of the branches are to be choſen;

they are to be bound upon the wound, and they ſtop the bleeding, and perform a very ſpeedy cure. I have had very late and very ſingular inſtances of the effects of this herb. Many of the common plants are celebrated for this virtue, but the effect of this is ſurpriſing.

Twy Blade. *Bifolium.*

A very ſingular and pretty plant, common in our meadows, in the beginning of ſummer. It is a foot high; the ſtalk is round, green, tender, and upright; it has only two leaves on it, and they grow from the root; they are very large, broad, of an oval figure, and ſtand oppoſite to one another, about the middle of the ſtalk, or ſomewhat lower; the flowers are ſmall and green; they are of an uncommon figure ſomewhat like that of the orchis's, and they ſtand in a long ſpike; the ſeeds are very ſmall, and the root is ſmall, ſlender, and white.

The freſh gathered plant is uſed; an infuſion of it made ſtrong, is good againſt the bleeding of the piles, and the juice is recommended to be applied to them externally.

V.

GARDEN VALERIAN. *Valeriana Hortenſis.*

A TALL and beautiful plant, native of the mountainous parts of Italy, and common in our gardens. It is three feet high. The ſtalk is upright, round, ſtriated, and hollow; the leaves which grow from the root, are long and ſomewhat broad; ſome of theſe are divided deeply on each ſide, others are intire; all have a broad and round end: Thoſe on the ſtalks are ſmaller, and they are all deeply divided: The flowers ſtand in lare tufts, in the form of umbels, at the tops of the ſtalks and branches; they are ſmall and white; the root is long, irregular, and moderately thick; it creeps under upon the ſurface of the ground, and has a ſtrong ſmell; its colour is brown, and it is full of fibres.

The root is uſed dry; the druggiſts call it *phu*; it is good in fevers, and in ſuppreſſions of the menſes, for it is diaphoretic, and good againſt all obſtructions. It works alſo by urine, and it is warm upon the ſtomach, and good againſt diſorders of the nerves.

WILD VALERIAN. *Valeriana Sylveſtris.*

A TALL and handſome plant, frequent in our woods, and upon heaths, not unlike the garden-valerian in its form and manner of growth, and of greater virtues. It is a yard high; the ſtalks are round, ſtriated, upright, hollow, and of a pale green; the leaves are

large and beautiful; they are each compoſed of ſeveral pairs of ſmaller, ſet on a common rib, and with an odd one at the end. Theſe are long, narrow, dentated at the edges, of a faint green colour, and a little hairy. The flowers ſtand in large tufts, like umbels, at the tops of the ſtalks, and are ſmall and white, with a bluſh of reddiſh. The root is of a whitiſh colour, and is compoſed of a great many thick fibres. It is of a very ſtrong and diſagreeable ſmell.

The root is uſed; it is beſt dried and given in powder, or infuſion. It is an excellent medicine in nervous diſorders. It is ſaid that it will cure the falling ſickneſs, but its good effects againſt headachs, low-ſpiritedneſs, and tremblings of the limbs, are well known.

The Vanilla Plant. *Vanilla.*

A climbing plant, native of America. It grows to thirty feet or more in length, but the ſtalk is ſlender and weak, and climbs upon trees to ſupport it. It is round, ſtriated, green and tough; the leaves are numerous and placed irregularly; they are a foot long, conſiderably broad, and like thoſe of the common plantain, of a duſky green, and have high ribs; the flowers are ſmall in ſhape like a pea-bloſſom, but of a greeniſh white colour; the pods are long and flatted, of a brown colour, of a very fragrant ſmell, and full of exceedingly ſmall ſeeds.

This pod is the part uſed; it is a cordial and reſtorative; it opens obſtructions, and promotes the menſes; it operates by urine, and by ſweat, but it is not much uſed. Some put them into chocolate, to give it a flavour, and to make it more cordial and reſtorative: This is done in the grinding up the nuts to the cake, and we buy it by the name of *Vanilla chocolate.*

VERVAIN. *Verbena.*

A COMMON wild plant, about our path-ways, with ſlender ſpikes, and a few little flowers. It is two feet high; the ſtalks are numerous, ſquare, very ſtrong, a little hairy, and often purpliſh; the leaves grow two at each joint; they are oblong, narrow, notched at the edges, of a duſky green, and of a wrinkled and rough ſurface; the flowers are white, with a tinge of purpliſh; there is a long ſpike of their buds and of the remaining cups, but only two or three flowers are open at a time.

The freſh gathered tops are uſed; an infuſion of them is good againſt obſtructions of the liver and ſpleen: It is warm upon the ſtomach, and a continued uſe of it will remove nervous complaints.

THE VINE. *Vitis.*

A WEAK ſhrub too familiar in our gardens, to need much deſcription. The trunk is covered with a rough bark; the branches are long, weak, and ſtraggling; the leaves are roundiſh in the whole figure, but indented deeply into five or ſeven diviſions, the lower are inconſiderable: The fruit is round or oblong, juicy, and produced in great bunches.

We uſe no part of the common vine, as it grows with us; but not to mention the ſeveral kinds of wine that are uſed on different occaſions, the dried fruit in the form of what we call *raiſins* and *currants*, is in conſtant repute. Raiſins of the ſun, Malaga raiſins, and currants all have the ſame virtues; they are good in coughs and foreneſs of the lungs, and in conſumptions.

Vinegar is alſo a product of the grape: It is wine become ſour, and ſpirit of wine and brandy of the very beſt kinds, are made from wine alſo by diſtillation. The ſubſtance called *tartar*, of which the

cream of tartar is made, is only a ſalt of the grape, which ſticks to the wine caſks: So that we owe to the grape more medicines than to any one ſimple whatſoever.

VIOLET. *Viola.*

A COMMON wild plant in our woods and hedges, but of a fragrance ſuperior to all that we receive from the rich Eaſt. It is a little low creeping plant, obſcure even when in flower; the ſtalks are round, green, and creeping; they do not riſe up, but ſpread themſelves along the ground, taking root at the joints; the leaves riſe from theſe rooted parts; they are large, and ſtand each on a long foot-ſtalk; they are of a heart-like ſhape, and dented round the edges, and of a deep green; the flowers are ſmall, and of a deep and beautiful purple; they ſtand ſingly on ſhort foot-ſtalks ariſing among the leaves, and covered by them.

The flowers are the part uſed; boiling water is to be poured upon them juſt enough to cover them, and it is to ſtand all night; when it is ſtrained clear off, the ſugar is to be added to it, at the rate of two pounds to each pint, and it is to be melted over the fire; this makes ſyrup of violets, an excellent gentle purge for children; the leaves are dried alſo, and are uſed in the decoctions for clyſters. An infuſion of them works by urine.

VIPERS GRASS. *Scorzonera.*

A TALL and handſome plant, native of the warmer parts of Europe, but kept in our gardens. It is three feet high; the ſtalk is round, thick, upright, and firm; the leaves are numerous, and ſtand irregularly; they are long, narrow, of a pale green, ſharp-pointed, and not dentated at the edges; thoſe from the root are long and narrow alſo, but they are conſiderably

large. The flowers grow at the top of the branches; they are large like dandelion flowers in ſhape, and of a moſt beautiful pale yellow; the ſeed has a white down annexed to it. The root is long, thick, and brown.

The root is the part uſed, and it is beſt freſh taken up. It is given in infuſion, and it is cordial, and operates by ſweat; it is good in fevers, but little uſed.

VIPERS BUGLOSS. *Echium.*

A COMMON wild plant, about our path-ways, and on ditch-banks, known by its ſpotted ſtalks, and fine blue flowers. It is a foot and an half high: The ſtalk is round, thick, firm, hairy, and upright; it is of a whitiſh colour, ſtained with ſpots and lines of blue, red, and purple; the leaves are longiſh and narrow; they are rough, and of a deep duſky green, broad and blunt at the point, and have no foot-ſtalks; the flowers are large, and of a beautiful blue, with red ſtamina in the middle.

The leaves are uſed; thoſe growing from the root are beſt; an infuſion of them is cordial, and operates by ſweat; it is good in fevers, and againſt headachs, and all nervous complains.

THE VIRGINIAN SNAKEROOT-PLANT. *Serpentaria Virginiana.*

A LITTLE plant, of the birthwort-kind, but different from the ſeveral ſorts of that plant deſcribed already in their places, in its roots, and in its manner of growing. It is two feet high, when it grows in a favourable ſoil, and has buſhes or any thing elſe to ſupport it. The ſtalks are weak and green; the leaves ſtand irregularly on them, and they are oblong, narrow, and auriculated at the bottom; the flowers are ſmall, hollow, and of deep duſky purpliſh

colour; the root is compoſed of a vaſt quantity of ſtrings, which are of a duſky olive colour, and of a ſtrong ſmell and aromatic taſte. The roots of this plant were the firſt that came into uſe, under the name of *Virginian ſnakeroot*, but there are upon the ſpot two other plants of the ſame kind, though different ſpecies, which have thready roots of the ſame form, and they are indifferently taken up for uſe; they all ſeem to have the ſame virtue, ſo that there is no harm in the mixture. There is ſometimes another root mixed among them, but that is eaſily diſtinguiſhed, for it is black, and theſe are all of the ſame duſky olive colour. This laſt adulteration ſhould be avoided.

The Virginian ſnakeroot is an excellent medicine in fevers, it operates by urine and by ſweat, and will often take off inveterate headachs. It is alſo given by ſome as a remedy againſt worms; and it was originally famous againſt the poiſon of the rattleſnake, and was a remedy we learned from the Indians. It is good againſt worms in children, and may be given in ſmall doſes for a continuance of time. Scarce any thing is more effectual.

THE VOMIC NUT-TREE. *Nux Vomica.*

A TALL and ſpreading tree of the Eaſt, very like that which affords the wood called *ſnakewood* in the ſhops, and by ſome ſuppoſed the ſame with it; but that is an error: The kernels of the fruit of that tree, are indeed of the ſhape of the vomic nuts, but they are not half ſo big. The tree is large and ſpreading; the branches are numerous, and the leaves are large; they ſtand in pairs oppoſite to one another; and are oblong, broadeſt in the middle, and rounded or blunt at the end, and of a very bitter taſte; the flowers are ſmall and ſtand in cluſters at certain parts of the young branches; the fruit is of the bigneſs of an apple, and is yellow when ripe; the kernels in this are

what we call *nux vomica;* there are fifteen of them in each fruit, and they are lodged in three diviſions.

Theſe kernels are the only part uſed; our druggiſts keep them; they are round, flat, and of a whitiſh colour, very firm, and tough: They have been uſed as poiſon to dogs, cats, and other animals; but there are thoſe who give them to the human ſpecies in ſmall doſes without miſchief, and with very good effect. Quartan agues that have ſtood it againſt the bark, have been cured by them; but if the doſe be too large, they bring on convulſions, and there is great reaſon to believe, that in very large ones they would kill. At preſent we have choice of ſo many medicines for every diſorder, that it is almoſt unpardonable, to give ſuch as are ſuſpicious. Some people have ventured to give even ratſbane as a medicine, mixed with other things, and in the twentieth part of a grain for a doſe; but reaſon condemns this raſh way of practice, and doubly, as there is no neceſſity to authorize it.

W.

The Walnut Tree. *Juglans.*

A common tree in our gardens; it grows to a great bigneſs, and is very much branched; the leaves are very large and long, each is compoſed of a double row of ſmaller, and has an odd one at the end. Theſe are each of an oval figure, and yellowiſh green co-

lour, and of a pleaſant ſmell. The flowers are little; they are yellowiſh, and arranged in looſe katkins; the fruit is covered with a green thick coat, and has within a kernel divided into parts, and of an uneven ſurface.

The bark of the walnut tree is a good emetic; it may be given in infuſion, or dried and powdered; it vomits eaſily and plentifully. The ſkin that covers the kernel is good againſt fluxes.

Wall-Flower. *Leucoium.*

A common wild plant, but not without beauty: It is frequent on old walls, and has yellow and ſweet-ſcented flowers. The ſtalks are woody, and a foot and an half high; the leaves are very numerous, longiſh, narrow, and of a dead green; the flowers ſtand in a kind of ſpikes, at the tops of the ſtalks, and are yellow and moderately large; the ſeeds are contained in long pods.

The flowers are uſed; and an infuſion of them freſh is good againſt the headach, and in all nervous diſorders; they are alſo good to ſteep in oil, to which they give a cordial warmth, and make it good againſt pains in the limbs. But they are not either way much uſed at preſent.

Water Arrow-Head. *Sagitta Aquatica.*

A very pretty plant, common in our ditches, with leaves like the bearded heads of arrows, and with pretty white flowers: It is two feet and a half high, but generally the greateſt part of the ſtalk is buried in water, very little appearing above, except the ſpike of flowers; the leaves ſtand each upon a pedicle, which is round, thick, and very long; they are of a beautiful green, and are broad, and bearded at the baſe, and ſharp at the point; the flowers are white,

tolerably large, and very bright; and the ſtalk on which they are ſupported, is alſo round and thick.

The common people in many places have a cuſtom of applying theſe leaves bruiſed to inflammations; they cool and give eaſe, but it is not always right.

WATER PLANTAIN. *Plantago Aquatica.*

A VERY common tall plant in ditches, and having not the leaſt reſemblance of any kind of plaintain, except in the leaves, from which, however, it has received its name. The root is compoſed of a great quantity of fibres. From this, there riſe in ſpring a number of leaves, oblong, broad, ſmooth, and of a beautiful green colour, and having in ſhape, though not at all in colour or conſiſtence, ſome ſlight reſemblance of plantain; they are perfectly ſmooth, of a gloſſy ſurface, and brittle. Theſe ſtand for many months without the ſtalk, and doubtleſs in this ſtate it got the name. The ſtalk is two feet or more in height, round, firm, and upright, and at the top it ſends out a vaſt number of branches, which ſend out other ſmaller, and even theſe laſt are again divided. On the tops of the laſt diviſions ſtand the flowers, with their buds, and the ſeed-veſſels; ſo that the whole has the appearance of a cone. The flowers are little and white, and conſiſt of three leaves each; they ſtand but a little time, and only a few are ſeen together.

The ſeed is the part uſed: The plant is to be ſuffered to ſtand, till this is thoroughly ripe, and then cut up gently, and laid to dry two or three days upon a table, a ſmart ſtroke or two will diſlodge a great quantity of the ſeeds; they are very good againſt the overflowings of the menſes, and all other bleedings; and are but given in powder in electauries; ſmall doſes being to be taken at a time, and often repeated.

Rue-leaved Whitlow-Grass. *Paronychia Rutacco Folio.*

A common little plant, early in ſpring, on our walls and houſes, and of a very ſingular aſpect: It is red, and has pretty white flowers: It is not more than four inches high: The ſtalks are round, upright, and a little hairy, and they are covered with an unctuous clammineſs, which make them ſtick to the fingers in handling; the leaves are little, and alſo red; they are each divided into three parts at the extremity, in the way of fingers; they ſtand irregularly on the ſtalks, and they are thick, fleſhy, and clammy in handling; the flowers ſtand at the tops of the branches; they are little, but of a very bright white, and look very conſpicuous. The whole plant dies away as ſoon as it has ripened the ſeed, and is not to be ſeen again till the next ſpring.

The freſh gathered plant is to be uſed entire, a ſtrong infuſion of it is a very great ſweetener of the blood. It is excellent againſt the ſcurvy in whatever form; and there are accounts of its curing the King's Evil, that ſeem very well atteſted. A ſyrup may be made of its juice, or of a very ſtrong infuſion of it; or a conſerve of the leaves: For the dried plant has very little virtue, and it is to be had freſh only a very ſmall part of the year.

The white Willow. *Salix vulgaris alba.*

A very common tree in wet places, and this which is uſed in medicine, is the moſt common of all the ſeveral kinds of it: It is alſo the largeſt: It grows to be a tall tree: The bark is whitiſh, and rough upon the trunk, and grey upon the branches; the leaves are oblong, narrow, and whitiſh, eſpecially on the under-ſide; they ſtand irregularly on the branches, and are a little ſerrated at the edges, and pointed at the ends; the flowers are very inconſiderable, but they are arranged ſeveral together, in what are called *catkins* or *palms*; the ſeeds are ſmall; they ſtand in the ſame catkins, mixed with fine white down.

The bark of the branches is uſed, and it is beſt dried; it is good againſt purgings, and the overflowings of the menſes, and is moſt conveniently given in powder. Half a dram for a doſe.

WINTER-GREEN. *Pyrola.*

AN extremely pretty plant, wild in ſome parts of England, but not common. The ſtalk is round, thick, upright, and ten inches high: The leaves all grow from the root, for the ſtalk is naked; they are broad, roundiſh, and of a deep green colour; they are of a fleſhy ſubſtance, and ſtand each on a ſeparate foot-ſtalk of three or four inches long: The flowers are ſmall, and of a very bright white; they ſtand in a kind of looſe ſpike on the tops of the ſtalks: The root is compoſed of a quantity of thick whitiſh fibres.

The leaves are uſed. A decoction of them, with a piece of cinnamon and a little red wine, is given againſt the overflowings of the menſes, bloody ſtools, and all hæmorrhages, and againſt ulcers in the urinary paſſages, and bloody urine.

WOAD. *Glaſtum.*

A PLANT cultivated in fields, in many parts of England, for the uſe of the dyers, and commonly met with in places near thoſe where it was ſown, as if a wild plant; but it is not properly a native of our country. It is a tall, erect, and handſome plant: The ſtalk is round, thick, firm, upright, and four feet high; but it is uſually ſo covered with the leaves, that ſcarce any part of it is to be ſeen naked: The leaves are long, and of a conſiderable breadth; they are large at the baſe, where they grow to the ſtalk, without any foot-ſtalks, and narrower all the way to the point; they are of a bluiſh green colour, and the whole plant is covered with them, ſo the top has a pretty aſpect: The flowers are little and yellow;

they ſtand in great numbers about the tops of the ſtalks, which are divided into a multitude of ſmall branches, and they are ſucceeded by ſmall ſeed-veſſels. The root is long and thick.

Although the dyers are the people who pay the moſt regard to woad, and for whoſe uſe it is cultivated, it has virtues that demand for it a great deal of reſpect in medicine. The top of the ſtalks, before the flowers appear, contain the greateſt virtue, and they are beſt freſh; they are to be given in infuſion, and they are excellent againſt obſtructions of the liver and ſpleen; they work by urine, and ſo take effect: the uſe of this infuſion muſt be continued a conſiderable time; theſe are diſorders that come on ſlowly, and are to be ſlowly removed.

Woodroof. *Aſperula.*

A COMMON little wild plant in our woods and thickets: It is ten inches high. The ſtalk is ſquare, ſlender, weak, and not able to ſupport itſelf perfectly upright; the leaves ſtand ſeveral at each joint, encompaſſing the ſtalk in the manner of a ſtar; they are oblong, broad, and of a deep green. In their form and manner of growth, they much reſemble thoſe of common cleavers, but they are larger, though the plant is ſo much leſs, and they are not rough as in that plant, but nearly ſmooth. The flowers ſtand at the tops of the ſtalks in little cluſters; they are ſmall and white; the ſeeds ſtand two together in a globular form; the roots are little and fibrous.

The freſh herb is uſed, and is beſt given in a ſtrong decoction; it open obſtructions of the liver and ſpleen, and is a cordial and ſtomachic. It is good in the jaundice.

The Wormseed Plant. *Abſynthium Santonicum.*

A KIND of wormwood, native of the Eaſt, and not known ſo much as in our gardens. The plant is two feet high. The leaves are very finely divided, like thoſe of the true Roman wormwood, and of a pale

green on the upper-ſide, and a ſilvery white below; the ſtalks are ſtiff, firm, woody, and branched; they are of a whitiſh colour, and have a looſe downy ſkin upon them: The flowers are ſmall and browniſh; they reſemble thoſe of wormwood, and ſtand in a kind of looſe ſpikes at the tops of the ſtalks.

The ſeeds are uſed: Our druggiſts keep them, and very often the unripe buds of the flowers in their place, are mixed with them: They are good againſt worms in children; the good women give them mixed with treacle; and few medicines for this purpoſe have better effect. For people of nicer palates, they may be powdered, and made into boluſes.

TREACLE WORMSEED. *Camelina.*

THIS is not the plant which produces what the druggiſts ſell under the name of *wormſeed*, that is the produce of an Egyptian kind of wormwood, juſt deſcribed. This is an Engliſh herb of the podded kind, and very diſtinct in its whole upper appearance from that, and all of its ſort. It is two feet high. The ſtalks are round, upright, firm, and toward the top divided into branches; the leaves are very numerous, and ſtand irregularly; they are longiſh, narrow, pointed at the ends, not at all dented at the edges, and of a duſky green colour; the flowers are little and yellow, they ſtand in ſmall cluſters at the tops of the branches, and under them is a kind of ſpike of pods; theſe are long and ſlender, green at firſt, but of a kind of brown colour when ripe; and in each is a great number of ſeeds; theſe are round, ſmall, and of an extremely bitter taſte, much more bitter than the common wormſeed.

This ſeed is the part uſed. The good women bruiſe it, and mixing it with treacle, give it to the children of robuſt conſtitutions againſt worms. It operates powerfully by ſtool, and, if given in too large a quantity, by vomit. It is therefore to be uſed with

diſcretion, but it will anſwer the purpoſe, and is preferable for many reaſons, to thoſe mercurial medicines, which it is the faſhion of the times to give to people for thoſe diſorders, eſpecially in the country, where there ſeldom is ſkill enough in the practitioner to manage as he ought medicines, which may be the occaſion of ſo much miſchief.

Common Wormwood. *Abſynthium vulgare.*

A wild plant frequent by way-ſides, and on ditch-banks. It is a yard high. The ſtalks are round, ſtriated, white, firm, and branched; the leaves are large, but they are divided into a great number of ſmall parts; they are of a pale whitiſh green, and ſtand irregularly on the ſtalks: Many larger, but of the ſame kind, riſe from the root. The flowers ſtand in a kind of looſe ſpikes, at the tops of the ſtalks; they are ſmall and brown. The whole plant is of a very bitter taſte.

The tops of the plant are to be uſed freſh gathered, a very ſlight infuſion of them is excellent for all diſorders of the ſtomach, and will prevent ſickneſs after meals, and create an appetite; but if it be made ſtrong, it will not only be diſagreeable to the taſte, but will diſguſt the ſtomach.

The tops, with the flowers on them, dried and powdered, are good againſt agues, and have the ſame virtue with wormſeed in killing worms; indeed they are much better than the wormſeed that is commonly to be met with, which is generally too much decayed. The juice of the large leaves of wormwood, which grow from the root, before the ſtalk appears, is good againſt the dropſy and jaundice, for it opens obructions, and works by urine powerfully.

Sea Wormwood. *Abſynthium Seriphium.*

A plant common in our ſalt-marſhes, and about ditches, where ſalt-water comes. It has ſomewhat

the aſpect of wormwood, but the leaves are much narrower in the diviſions, and the whole plant is ſmaller. The ſtalks are woody, firm, upright, very much branched, and a foot and an half high; the leaves are whitiſh and ſmall; the flowers ſtand in looſe ſpikes at the tops of the ſtalks; they are little and brown, and they very much reſemble thoſe of the common wormwood, except for the ſize; the whole plant has a bitter taſte, but not diſagreeable, and it has a pleaſant aromatic ſmell.

The tops freſh gathered, and the whole plant dry, are uſed: They call it *Roman Woormwood* at the markets, and in the ſhops; and it is uſed for the other: It is of the ſame general virtues. All the three kinds indeed poſſeſs them in common, but the common wormwood is the moſt diſagreeable to the taſte, and ſits worſt upon the ſtomach: This is better than that, but it is much more diſagreeable than the true Roman wormwood. It is very ſtrengthening to the ſtomach; it aſſiſts digeſtion, and prevents wind. It is commonly an ingredient in the bitter infuſions, and tinctures of the ſhops, but it does very well alone, boiling water poured upon it, and and ſuffered to ſtand till it is cold, then ſtrained off, is an excellent medicine to cauſe an appetite. Put into white wine; it alſo gives a pleaſant bitter flavour, with the ſame virtues.

Roman Wormwood. *Abſynthium Romanum.*

A very delicate plant of the wormwood kind, native of the warmer parts of Europe, but kept in our gardens: It is two feet and a half high: The ſtalk is round and ſmooth, hard, upright, of a browniſh colour, and ſomewhat woody; the leaves ſtand irregularly on it, and they are ſmall and divided into very fine ſegments; they are more like the leaves of the common ſouthernwood in figure, than thoſe of either of the other wormwoods; the flowers are little and

brown, like thoſe of common wormwood, but vaſtly ſmaller: they are very numerous, and ſtand at the tops of the ſtalks in a kind of long and thick ſpikes; the root is creeping and ſpreading, and compoſed of fibres. The whole plant has a bitter taſte, but not at all like that of wormwood, extremely aromatic and pleaſing. The flowers are very bitter, and have little of this aromatic flavour.

The freſh tops are uſed, and the whole plant dried. It is excellent to ſtrengthen the ſtomach; but that is not all its virtue; the juice of the freſh tops is good againſt obſtructions of the liver and ſpleen, and has been known ſingly to cure the jaundice.

Y.

Yarrow. *Millefolium.*

A common plant in our paſtures, and by way-ſides. It is two or three feet high. The ſtalk is round, upright, firm, and ſtriated: The leaves are long, and not very broad, and they are the moſt beautifully divided of thoſe of any known plant.

Their colour is a deep green, and the parts into which they are divided, are exceedingly fine, ſlender, and regularly arranged: The flowers ſtand at the tops of the branches, in the manner of umbels, in round and large tufts; they are white, but they often have a bluſh of red. The root is white and creeping, and the ſeeds are white, broad, and flat.

The whole plant is uſed freſh gathered, but the beſt part is the tops of the ſhoots: Theſe are to be boiled in water, and the decoction ſweetened with fine ſugar; it is excellent againſt the bleedings of the piles, and bloody fluxes, and the overflowings of the menſes. It is alſo healing and good in ulcerations of the ureters; and it operates gently by urine.

Z.

The Zedoary Plant. *Zedoaria.*

An Eaſtern plant, very ſingular, and very beatiful. The root creeps under the ſurface, and has many tuberous lumps, ſome long, and ſome round, but the long are preferred; the round have by many been call *zerumbeth*, though the zerumbeth is properly another root to be deſcribed in its place. The leaves of the zedoary plant are large, very broad, and not vaſtly long; they ſtand in cluſters, incircling one another at the baſes. The flowers ſtand on ſeparate ſtalks, theſe are only eight or ten inches high. They are ſmall, of an irregular ſhape, and purpliſh.

The root is the only part uſed, our druggiſts keep it dry, it is a warm cordial and ſtomachic medicine, it ſtrengthens the ſtomach, aſſiſts digeſtion, and expels wind. It is good alſo in all nervous complaints, ſuch as lowneſs of ſpirits, faintings, tremblings of the limbs, and reſtleſſneſs. An ounce of zedoary ſliced thin, and put into a quart of wine, makes an excellent tincture for theſe purpoſes, and is very good taken in the quantity of a ſmall glaſs on going into a damp, or what is ſuſpected to be a tainted air.

The Zerumbeth Plant. *Zerumbetha.*

The zerumbeth plant in ſome reſpects reſembles that which affords the zedoary, but it is larger. It is a native of the Eaſt, and has not yet been got into our gardens. The leaves grow together in ſuch a manner as to form a kind of ſtalk; this is ſix feet high, or more, but it is only formed of their lower parts wrapped round one another in the manner of the leaves of our flags. The looſe part of each leaf is long, narrow, and of a bluiſh green. The flowers ſtand upon ſeparate ſtalks, theſe riſe about a foot high, and are of

a browniſh colour; they have only a ſort of films upon them in the place of leaves; the flowers ſtand in a ſhort and thick ſpike at the tops of theſe, they are oblong, hollow, moderately large, and of a beautiful ſcarlet. The root is long and irregular.

The root is uſed, our druggiſts keep it; it is warm and good in all nervous caſes. Its virtues are very nearly the ſame with thoſe of zedoary, and in general the round roots of zedoary are ſold under its name, though in reality it be a much longer as well as larger root than the zedoary itſelf.

APPENDIX.

CONCERNING

THE VIRTUES OF PLANTS,

Which have not yet been TRIED.

AS the intent of this work is truly to be of uſe to mankind, the author, who is deſirous of making that utility as extenſive as poſſible, cannot cloſe it without obſerving, that notwithſtanding the great deal that is known of the virtues of Engliſh plants, there is certainly a great deal more unknown, and there is room for greater diſcoveries.

The plants mentioned in this work are only four or five hundred, and not all theſe of Engliſh growth: If they were, they would yet be a very ſmall number in proportion to the whole. The catalogue of thoſe native of our own country, as publiſhed by Mr. Ray, amounting to many thouſands: Great numbers, therefore, remain yet untried.

To what purpoſe can a man devote the hours of his leiſure better, than to the diſcovering, among the number of the unregarded virtues, which may farther

ſupply the catalogue of our own remedies, and make the roots and ſeeds, brought from remote countries, leſs neceſſary. What encouragement to the attempt, that there are ſuch multitude of objects for the trial; and that the diſcovering but one remedy among them all for a diſeaſe we knew not how ſo well to cure before, is a ſource of more true honour than can be derived from all the uſeleſs knowledge in the world.

If any ſuppoſe the trial dangerous, they miſlead themſelves; and to encourage ſo laudable an undertaking, I ſhall obſerve how little is the hazard, and how conſiderable the advantages, from what we know already.

If a man were to be turned looſe upon an iſland where no perſon had ſet foot before, he might dread to taſte of any plant he ſaw, becauſe he might not know but every one he ſaw was fatal: And ſuppoſing him to have got over this fear, the ignorance of the virtues of all would keep him backward: But this is not at all the caſe with him, who ſhall at this time ſet about inquiring into the virtues of plants in England. The poiſonous plants, native of our ſoil, are hardly a dozen, and theſe are charactered, even to the eye, by ſomething ſingular or diſmal in the aſpect. They are well known, and he has nothing to do but to avoid them. For the reſt, he has ſo many whoſe uſes and qualities are already perfectly known, that he has a great foundation to go upon in the ſearch, becauſe he can compare thoſe he does not know with them. Their taſtes will go a great way towards informing him; but this is not all, their very outward figures will direct him: For in general thoſe plants, which agree in the external aſpect, agree likewiſe in their virtues.

To give an inſtance in the marſhmallow. It is known to work by urine, and to be good againſt the gravel. We will ſuppoſe no more known concerning this kind. A perſon deſirous of extending this uſeful knowledge, finds, that by the taſte of the root, which is inſipid, and its mucilaginous quality, he

might have gueſſed this to be its virtue from what he before knew of medicine. The next plant he meets, we will ſuppoſe, is the common mallow, and afterwards the little white flowered mallow, which lies upon the ground; he taſtes the roots of theſe, and he finds they are like the other: He will therefore gueſs that they have the ſame virtues, and upon trial he will find it ſo.

But this is not all: If he had examined the flower of the marſhmallow, in what manner it was conſtructed, and how the little threads grew within it, he would have found, that the flowers of theſe other two mallows were, in all reſpects, like thoſe of the other; and farther, he would have found, that the ſeeds of theſe two kinds were in the ſame manner diſpoſed in circular bodies: From this he might, without taſting their roots, have been led to gueſs that their virtues were the ſame; or having gueſſed ſo much from this, he might have been thence led to taſte them, and by that have been confirmed in it: But he might be carried yet farther; he would find the ſame ſort of round cluſters of ſeeds in the hollyhock in his garden, and, upon examining the ſingle flowers, he would ſee they were alſo alike: And hence he would diſcover that it was of this kind; and he would rightly judge, that the hollyhock alſo poſſeſſed the ſame virtues.

This is a method by which many of the plants mentioned in this book have been found to have virtues which others neglected; for there are many named in the preceding pages, and named with great praiſe, of which others have made little account: Theſe are the means by which the firſt gueſſes have been made about their virtues, and experiments have always confirmed them. It has not always happened, that the virtues of a plant, thus tried, have been in a degree worth ſetting in a light of conſequence: They have been ſometimes ſlight, and the plant has been diſregarded; but they have ſcarce ever miſſed to be found of the ſame nature.

Theſe experiments I have always thought honeſty required of me to make upon myſelf, and I never found harm from the trials. I had no right to bring into the leaſt poſſible danger the health of others; as to my own there was no probability of harm; but if it had happened, the intent would have ſanctified the accident, and I ſhould have been contented.

There is this great uſe in examining other plants which have the ſame ſort of flowers and fruits with thoſe which we know to have virtues, that we may in this way diſcover plants at home, to ſupply the place of thoſe we have from other countries. It is certain, the ſun in warmer climates does ripen the juices of vegetables farther than in ours; but yet we find the plants of the ſame kind, from whatever part of the world they come, to poſſeſs nearly the ſame kind of virtues; generally indeed they are the ſame, only differing in degree. Thus all the mallows of Spain and Itally, to bring the trial to the before-named inſtance, poſſeſs the ſame virtues with the marſh-mallow, mallow and hollyhock of England; and the caſe is the ſame with thoſe which are truly mallows of the Eaſt and Weſt Indies; though this do not hold good with reſpect to ſome of the plants of thoſe countries which have been brought hither under that name.

Thus alſo, that root, which was at one time about to be brought very much into uſe, under the name of the *Senega rattleſnake-root*, but of which little mention has been made here, becauſe the attention has not been turned upon novelty, but uſe, being found to belong to a kind of milkwort, or polygala. The roots of the common milkwort of our paſtures being tried, have been found to poſſeſs the ſame virtues, though in a leſs degree. This plant would not have been regarded, if the other had not been found to be of the ſame kind, but to that we owe the knowledge of its virtues.

There is this great reaſon for ſeeking in our own climate plants of the ſame nature, and form, and

kind, with thoſe which, in other countries, afford us remedies; that they are generally of the ſame kind, and may be fitter for our conſtitutions. This is certain, that as the ſun ripens the juices of plants in hotter countries to more virtue than with us, ſo it makes mens conſtitutions more able to bear their effects.

The Chineſe will ſwallow ſuch doſes as are poiſon to one of us. This we know in many inſtances, and it ought to encourage us in the preſent reſearch, becauſe, if the ſame doſes which agree with them are too much for us, we may alſo find, that other medicines of the ſame kind of virtues, though in a leſſer degree, may alſo be found to agree better with our conſtitutions. I would not carry ſo far, as ſome have done, that opinion of nature's having provided in every country the remedies for the diſeaſes of that country: God is the author of nature, and he knowing there would be commerce among mankind, knew that would not be neceſſary. But notwithſtanding that, it may be neceſſary in ſome caſes, and convenient in many, for us to have drugs from abroad, yet, in general, it will be better for us to be cured by thoſe herbs we may find at home, and they will be found upon trial more ſufficient for that purpoſe than we at preſent imagine. The means are at hand, but we have made very little uſe of them, proportioned to their number and their value.

The obſervation already made, that the external form of plants may very well give the hint for a conjecture about their virtues, is much more general than might be imagined. Almoſt all the plants of the ſame kinds are of the ſame virtues. But that is not all: For in general, thoſe of the ſame claſs poſſeſs the ſame qualities, though different in degree: And this is a prodigious help to him who ſhall ſet out upon the generous and uſeful plan of adding to the number of the uſeful plants. It is alſo ſingular, that what might appear objections in this caſe, being brought to the trial, will often be found confirmations of the truth there is in the obſervation.

Thus ſuppoſe a man, obſerving that lettice is eatable, ſhould inquire into all the plants like lettice, which are thoſe that have flowers compoſed of many parts, and have the ſeeds winged with a white downy matter, to find whether they were eatable; let us examine how he would ſucceed. The plants of this claſs, native of England, are the ſowthiſtle, the hawkweeds, the dandelion, goatſbeard, ſuccory, and endive, all eatables. The hawkweeds are leſs agreeable in the taſte, but wholeſome; and as to the wild lettices, thoſe who would bring the opiate quality of the principal of them as an objection, ſtrengthen the obſervation, for the garden-lettice alſo has an opiate quality. This wild one poſſeſſes it in a greater degree, but ſtill in ſuch degree, that it is an excellent medicine, not at all dangerous. Its bitter taſte would prevent people eating it, for it is diſagreeable; but its virtues are the ſame with thoſe of lettice, only greater. There are ſome kinds of hawkweed alſo which have a bitter milky juice, altogether like to that of this lettice, and they alſo have this opiate quality. I have tried many of them, but as there are none of them equal to the great wild lettice in this reſpect, it would have been idle to have ſpent many words about them.

This general obſervation may be carried a great deal farther; but it were the buſineſs of a volume, not of a ſhort appendix, to explain it at large. In general, the ſeeds of umbelliferous plants, that is, thoſe which have little flowers in rounded cluſters, each ſucceeded by two ſeeds, are good againſt cholics; thoſe of carraway, aniſe, cummin, coriander, and all of that kind, are produced by plants of this figure. In the ſame manner the *verticillate plants*, as they are called, that is, thoſe which have the flowers ſurrounding the ſtalks, as in mint and thyme, are of a warm nature; and however they differ in degree and circumſtance, they have the ſame general virtues. Farther, ſuch plants as are inſipid to the taſte and ſmell have generally little vir-

tues; and, on the contrary, thoſe which have the moſt fragrant ſmell, and ſharpeſt taſte, have the greateſt virtues of whatever kind.

In general alſo, thoſe plants which have a ſtrong but an agreeable taſte, are moſt worthy to be examined with reſpect to their virtues; for they are generally the moſt valuable; and on the contrary, when a very ſtrong taſte is alſo a very diſagreeable one; or in the ſame manner, when the ſtrong ſmell of a plant has alſo ſomething heavy, diſagreeable, and overpowering in it; there is miſchief in the herb rather than any uſeful quality. The poiſonous plants of this country are very few, but they are for the moſt part characterized after this manner; ſo that they are known as it were at ſight, or by the firſt offer of a trial.

Thus we ſee how very little can be the danger of inquiring farther into the virtues of our own plants by experiments, and how uſeful ſuch an inquiry may be to mankind is ſufficiently proved by the matter of the preceding volume.

What I have here written is with intent to encourage ſome who have opportunities to make the trial; and, for my own part, I ſhall not be wanting. What I have already diſcovered in this way, I am pleaſed to ſee, makes no inconſiderable addition to the preſent publication; what I ſhall diſcover farther, or learn from the experience of others, ſhall have its place in the ſucceeding editions.

FINIS.